STAR TREK

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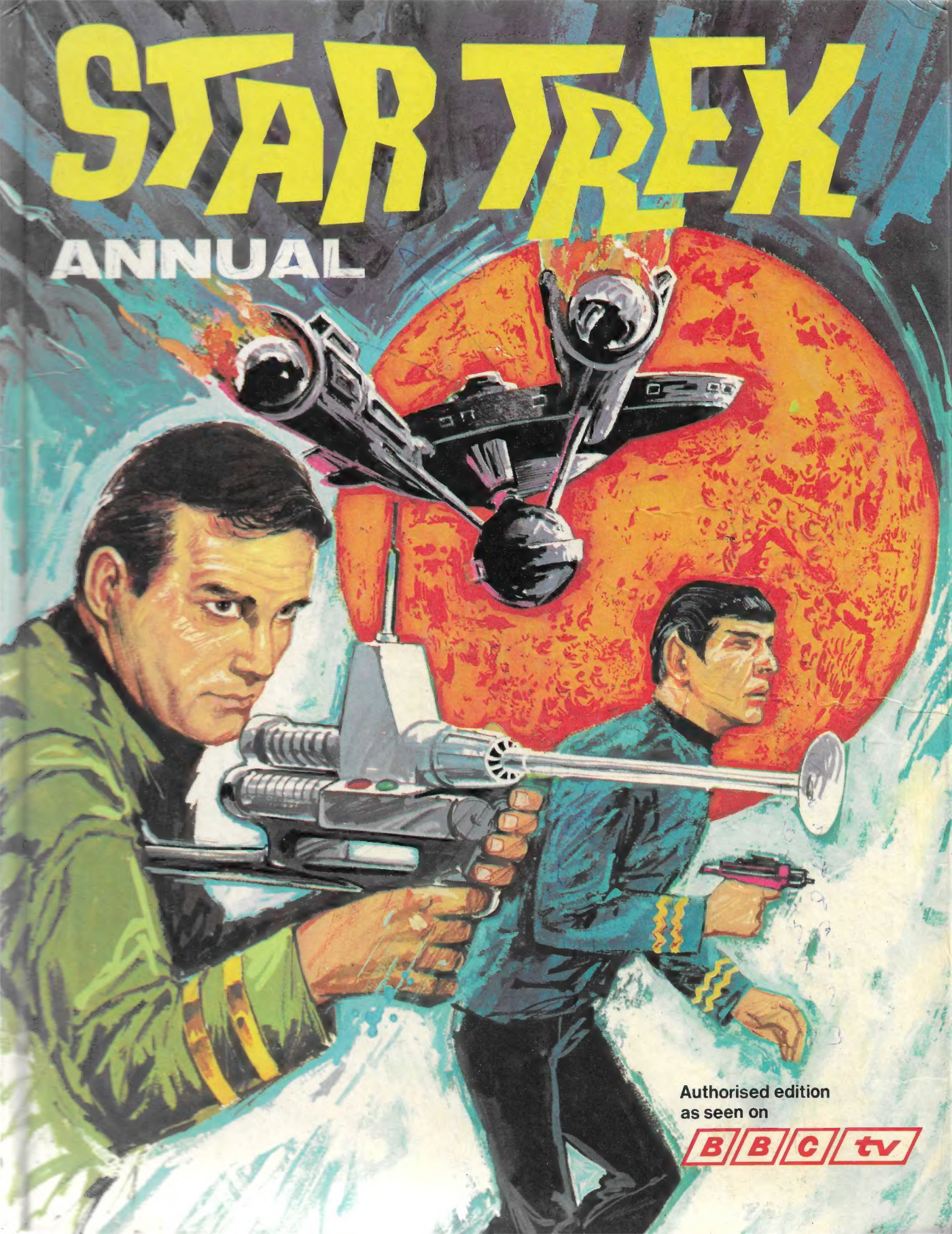

Authorised edition
as seen on
BBC tv

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CONTENTS

When Planets Collide 6
The Ghost Planet—Part I 38
Enterprise Examination 52
Venus, Planet of Mystery 53
The Ghost Planet—Part II 54
The Peril of Planet Quick Change—Part I . . 66
More Fact than Fiction 80
The Peril of Planet Quick Change—Part II . . 82

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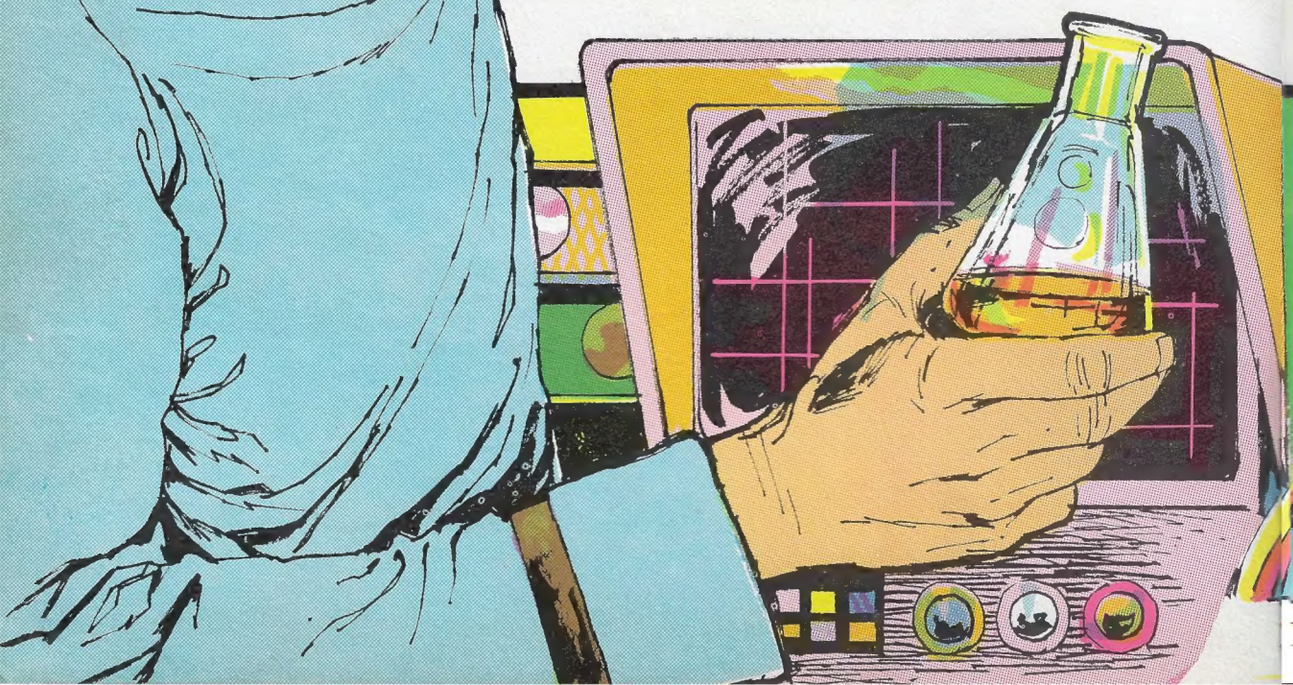
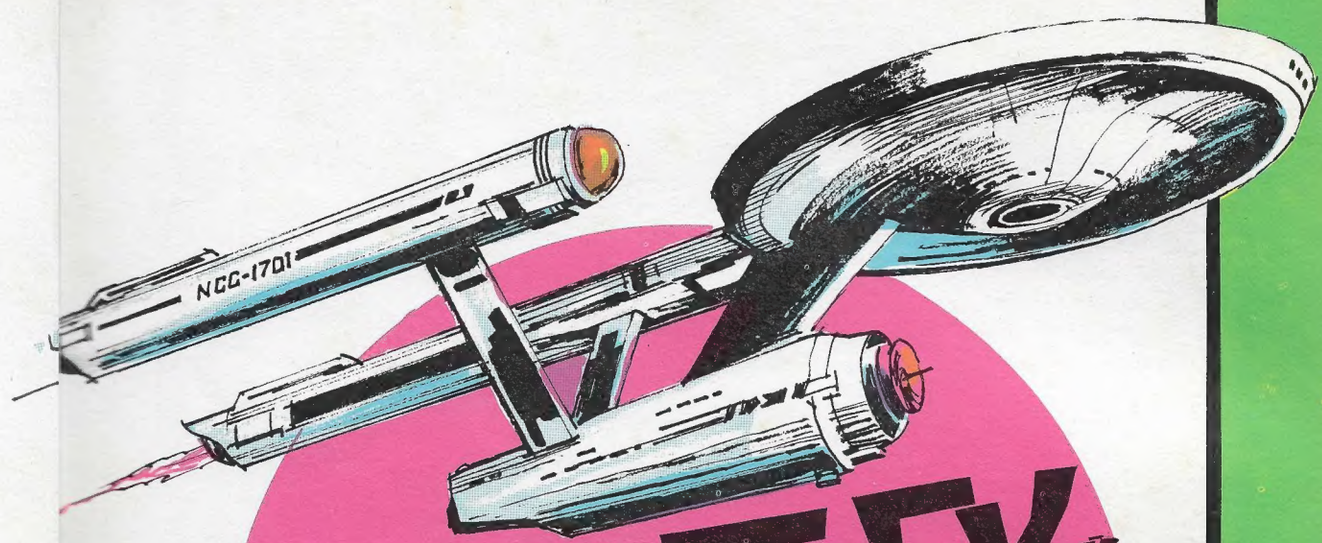




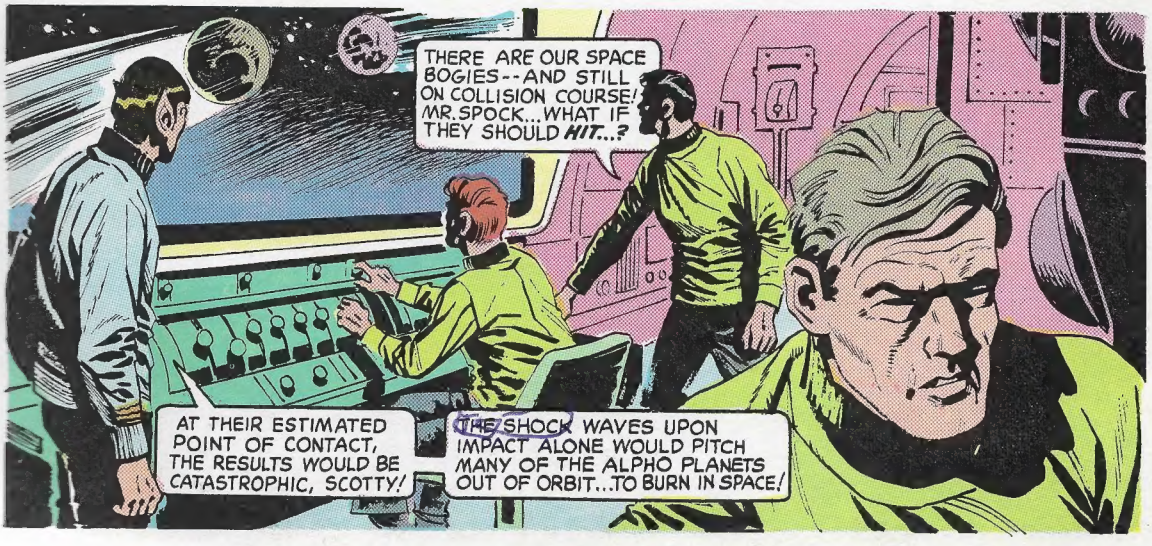
STAR TREK
ANNUAL

STAR TREK
WHEN PLANETS COLLIDE
THERE WAS SUDDEN DEATH IN SPACE--TWO PLANETS ON A COLLISION COURSE! AND ONLY THE CREW OF THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE COULD PREVENT SUCH A CATACLYSMIC MEETING... IF THEY THEMSELVES COULD SURVIVE!
BUT CAPTAIN--TOP SPEED CAN SHAKE US APART WHEN WE'RE TOWING TEN THOUSAND TONS!
THE METEOR STORM HAS HIT US DEAD ON! FULL ROCKET SPEED! WE'VE GOT TO PULL OUT OF THE AREA BEFORE WE'RE SHOT DOWN!

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE, 23:009-- TOP BRASS STUDIED A CURIOUS PICK-UP ON THE SCREEN OF THE ENTERPRISE'S TV SPACE SCANNER...
THE OPERATORS HAVE BEEN TRACKING THOSE U.B.* BLIPS SINCE THEY APPEARED IN THE ALPHO GALAXY! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THEM, MR. SPOCK?
HMM-M ... ALTHOUGH THEY ARE ON A DIRECT COURSE WITH ONE ANOTHER THERE'S STILL A BILLION-MILE RANGE BETWEEN THEM...
* U.B.--UNIDENTIFIED BODY

...AND THE ODDS AGAINST COLLISION ARE JUST ABOUT THAT GREAT! STILL, CAPTAIN, WE'D BETTER KEEP OUR SPACE EYES ON THEM!
I AGREE! AND SINCE WE'RE THE CLOSEST SHIP TO THEM IN THE STAR FLEET, I'M GOING TO SET CRUISE COURSE IN THAT DIRECTION!

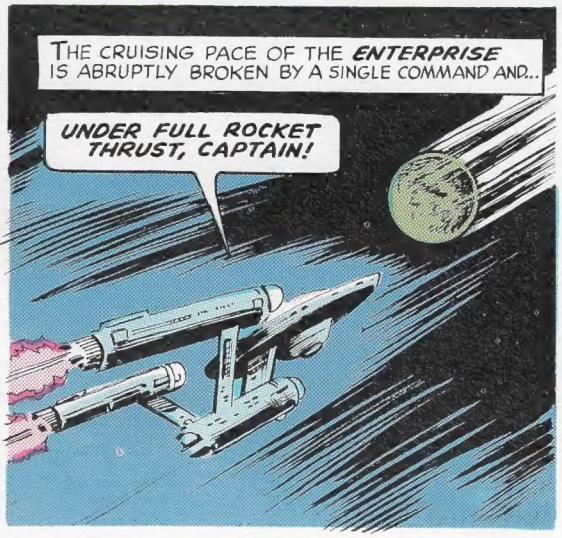
FIVE DAYS LATER A STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT COMES OVER THE LOUDSPEAKER...
COMMUNICATIONS HERE, SIR! THOSE BLIPS ON OUR TV SCANNER--WE'VE IDENTIFIED THEM! THEY'RE... PLANETS!
PLANETS...IN THE GALAXY AND ORBITING ALPHO! QUITE INCONCEIVABLE--THIS MUST BE CHECKED OUT IMMEDIATELY, CAPTAIN!

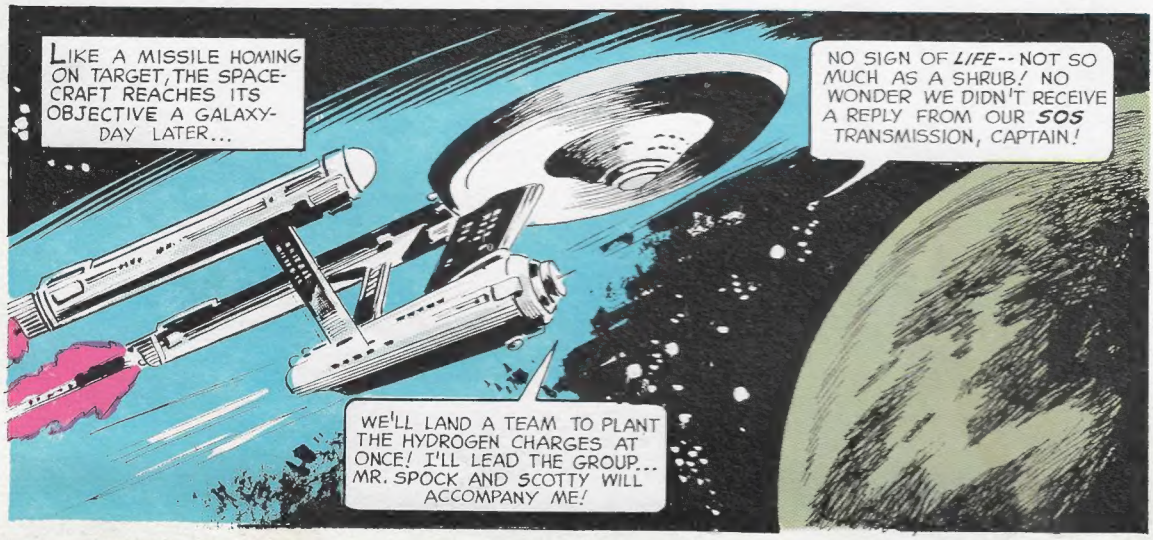

THERE ARE OUR SPACE BOGIES--AND STILL ON COLLISION COURSE! MR. SPOCK...WHAT IF THEY SHOULD HIT...?
AT THEIR ESTIMATED POINT OF CONTACT, THE RESULTS WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC, SCOTTY!
THE SHOCK WAVES UPON IMPACT ALONE WOULD PITCH MANY OF THE ALPHO PLANETS OUT OF ORBIT...TO BURN IN SPACE!

WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF THOSE FOREIGN PLANETS ARE INHABITED--TRY TO RAISE THEM ON OUR SOS SPACE FREQUENCY, OPERATOR...
AYE, SIR!

NERVES DRAW TAUT AS THE FRANTIC SIGNAL IS SENT FROM THE SPACECRAFT TIME AND AGAIN! BUT...
NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN!
GOOD! NOW OUR ACTION IS CLEAR--DESTROY ONE OF THE PLANETS AND ELIMINATE THE COLLISION THREAT!

THERE IS STILL AMPLE TIME TO INTERCEPT EITHER PLANET WELL BEFORE ESTIMATED COLLISION TIME, CAPTAIN...
WE'RE CLOSEST BY SEVERAL THOUSAND GALAXY MILES TO F.P.-1*
GIVE THE NAVIGATOR THAT COURSE, MR. SPOCK!
*FOREIGN PLANET-1


THE CRUISING PACE OF THE ENTERPRISE IS ABRUPTLY BROKEN BY A SINGLE COMMAND AND...
UNDER FULL ROCKET THRUST, CAPTAIN!


LIKE A MISSILE HOMING ON TARGET, THE SPACECRAFT REACHES ITS OBJECTIVE A GALAXY-DAY LATER...
NO SIGN OF LIFE--NOT SO MUCH AS A SHRUB! NO WONDER WE DIDN'T RECEIVE A REPLY FROM OUR SOS TRANSMISSION, CAPTAIN!
WE'LL LAND A TEAM TO PLANT THE HYDROGEN CHARGES AT ONCE! I'LL LEAD THE GROUP... MR. SPOCK AND SCOTTY WILL ACCOMPANY ME!

THE CREW IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM IS ON THE ALERT! BEAMS ILLUMINATE THE LANDING PARTY UNTIL THEIR BODIES GRADUALLY DISSOLVE ...
AND BLEND INTO THE ETHER OF TIME AND SPACE UNTIL MATERIALIZATION OCCURS ON THE PLANET BELOW...
ATMOSPHERE FAVOURABLE NO NEED FOR FILTER MASKS...
CAPTAIN! THOSE GROWTHS ATOP THE DOMES... THEY'RE MOVING!
SPLASH!
WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED! THE PLANET IS INHABITED!

WE'VE BEEN KNOCKED OFF OUR FEET--BUT WE'RE STILL ALIVE!
A MOST INGENIOUS ANTI-GRAVITY BUBBLE OF SOME KIND, MR. SCOTT!
BUT WHAT KIND OF PRISON IS THIS?
LOOK! PANELS... SLIDING OPEN IN THE DOMES! I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COMPANY!

I'LL SAY--ALIENS! SHALL WE TRY BLASTING THEM WITH OUR PHASERS, SIR?
NO! LET'S PLAY THE WAITING GAME AND SEE WHAT *THEY'RE* UP TO, SCOTTY!
A WISE SUGGESTION... SINCE I SUSPECT OUR WEAPONS WOULD HARDLY PENETRATE THESE BUBBLE SHELLS!

HEY! THEY'RE TOWING US INTO THE DOMES LIKE... LIKE WE WERE HUMAN BALLOONS! WHY DIDN'T THEY JUST FINISH US OFF AND BE DONE WITH IT!
AT LEAST WE'RE DEALING WITH CIVILIZED BEINGS! THEY OBVIOUSLY INTEND TO INTERROGATE US!

INSIDE THE ALIEN DOME THE IMPRISONING GLOBES ARE BURST IN A FRIGHTENING MANNER...
STOP! DON'T KILL! WE ARE FRIENDS... COME TO TELL YOU A TERRIBLE FACT! WE ARE NOT HOSTILE!
UNLESS THEY ALREADY KNOW THAT FACT, CAPTAIN!
THEN, THE TRIO ARE SLAMMED INTO ELECTRONIC CHAIRS OF A STRANGE DESIGN...
MAGNETIC CHAIRS...HOLDING FLESH DOWN LIKE METAL! WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE UP TO, MR. SPOCK?
I CAN ONLY DEDUCE THAT THEY ARE TESTING US! PERHAPS SEEKING TO PROVE WHAT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE!
AND INDEED MR. SPOCK IS CORRECT! FOR SCANT MOMENTS LATER ELECTRICAL IMPULSES PENETRATE THE BRAINS OF THE TRAPPED MEN...
SPEAK TRUTH, ALIENS! HAVE YOU COME TO DESTROY WHAT CENTURIES OF TIME HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO? ANSWER!
W-WE HAVE COME TO... AID YOU!

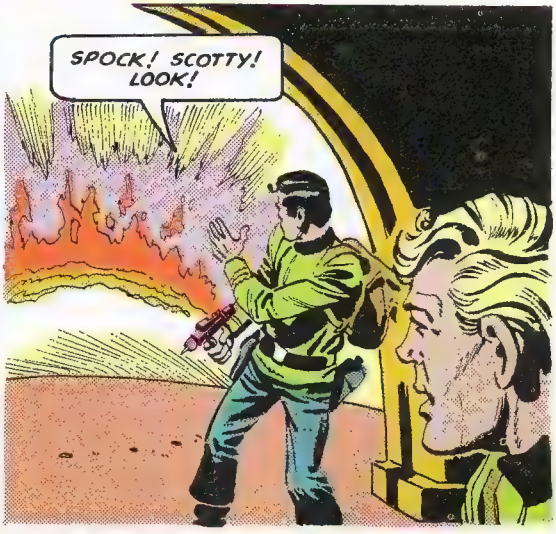
AND AS THE TRUTH SHOCKS POUR THROUGH THE TRIO...
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? IDENTIFY!
W-WE ARE SPACE PIONEERS ...FROM STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE...
ONLY ONE WAY TO PROVE OURSELVES...
GAIN CONTROL...:THEN CONVINCE THEM WE MEAN NO HARM... GOT TO REACH MY PHASER...
WHAT SEEK YOU HERE?
WE... COME TO WARN YOU!..
SUDDENLY, AS CAPTAIN KIRK'S HAND REACHES HIS WEAPON...
...YOU ARE ON A... COLLISION COURSE WITH ANOTHER PLANET!
GOT IT!
ZAP!
SCOTTY! SPOCK....
...MOVE IT!

SHOUTING IN SPACE ESPERANTO, THE LEADER OF THE ENTERPRISE CONFRONTS HIS CAPTORS WITH THE FACTS...
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN! NOW *LISTEN!* WE ARE *NOT* INVADERS! WITHIN THREE STAR-GALAXY DAYS YOUR PLANET WILL COLLIDE WITH ANOTHER PLANET!
A FOREIGN PLANET THAT IS ON A DIRECT COLLISION COURSE WITH THIS ONE!

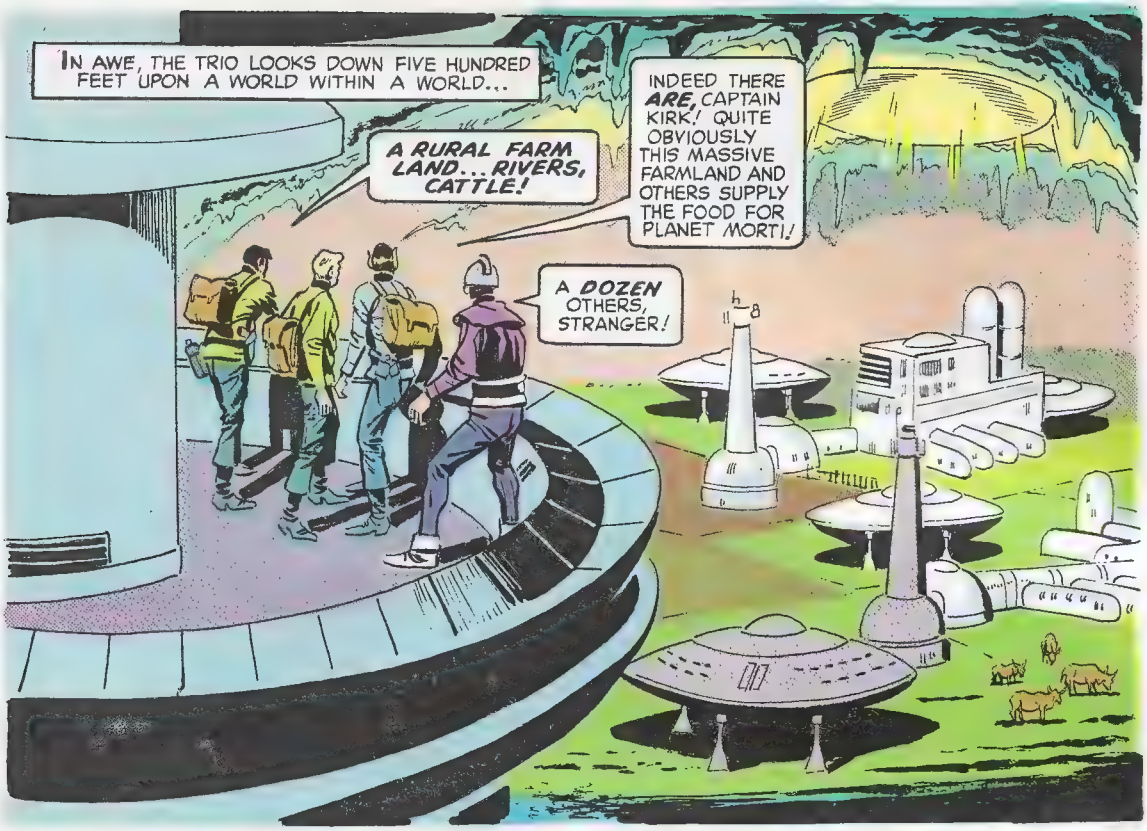
THE CATACLYSMIC IMPACT OF THE MEETING WILL JAR OTHER PLANETS OUT OF ORBIT IN THE ALPHO GALAXY...
AND PERHAPS ACTUALLY *DECIMATE* SOME, SIR!

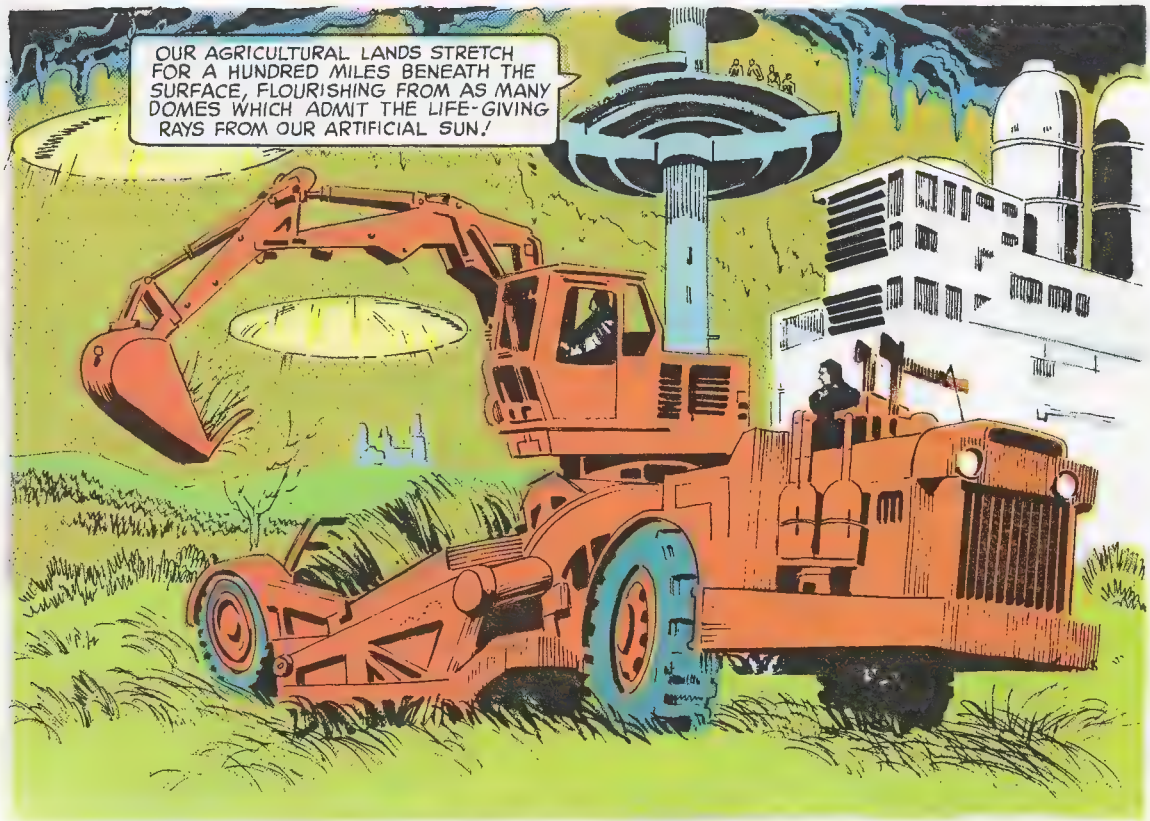
BUT, GENTLEMEN... WHY DID YOU ROCKET *HERE?* HOW CAN WE *PREVENT* SUCH A CATASTROPHE?
NOT KNOWING YOUR PLANET WAS INHABITED, WE INTENDED TO... ATOMIZE IT!

TO *DESTROY* US! AND NOW... *NOW* WHAT CAN BE DONE?
THE *OTHER* PLANET ... WE MUST NOW *HOPE* WE CAN VAPORIZE *IT!*


SPOCK! SCOTTY! LOOK!

A WARMING GLOW OF BRILLIANT LIGHT FILLS THE CHAMBER AND...
WHAT'S HAPPENING? IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK? IF IT IS...
NO, NO! THAT IS OUR SUN, GENTLEMEN FROM THE ENTERPRISE!
IT IS AN ARTIFICIAL SUN... MADE MANY CENTURIES AGO WHEN OUR OWN SUN DIED AND LEFT US A COLD AND DYING WORLD!
BUT, OF COURSE, YOU COULD NOT UNDERSTAND! COME... LET ME SHOW YOU HOW WE SURVIVE HERE ON THE PLANET MORT!
IT HAS TAKEN US MANY TIME-SPACE CENTURIES TO DEVELOP...
THINK WE'RE BEING BOONDOGGLED..."PUT ON," MR. SPOCK?
I... DO NOT THINK SO, CAPTAIN!
THEN...
YIIPES! BE-BEJABBERS! LOOK AT THAT!

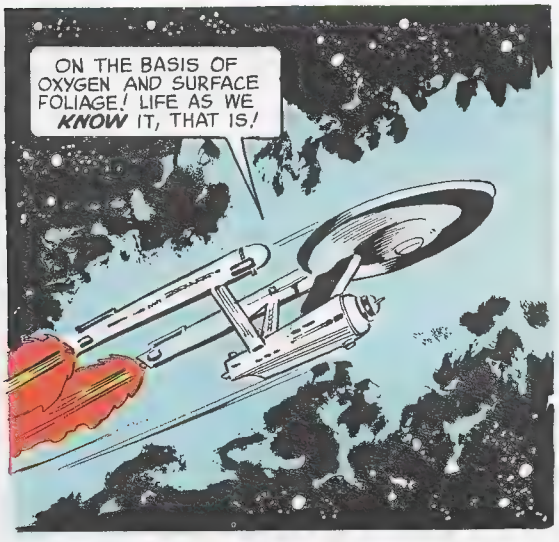

IN AWE, THE TRIO LOOKS DOWN FIVE HUNDRED FEET UPON A WORLD WITHIN A WORLD...
A RURAL FARM LAND... RIVERS, CATTLE!
INDEED THERE ARE, CAPTAIN KIRK! QUITE OBVIOUSLY THIS MASSIVE FARMLAND AND OTHERS SUPPLY THE FOOD FOR PLANET MORTI!
A DOZEN OTHERS, STRANGER!

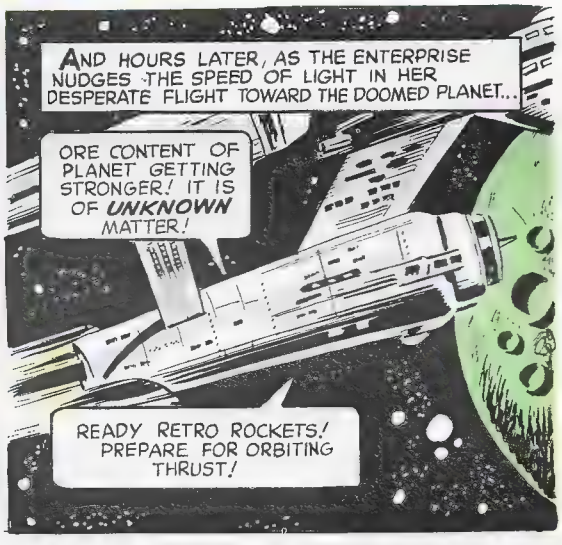

OUR AGRICULTURAL LANDS STRETCH FOR A HUNDRED MILES BENEATH THE SURFACE, FLOURISHING FROM AS MANY DOMES WHICH ADMIT THE LIFE-GIVING RAYS FROM OUR ARTIFICIAL SUN!

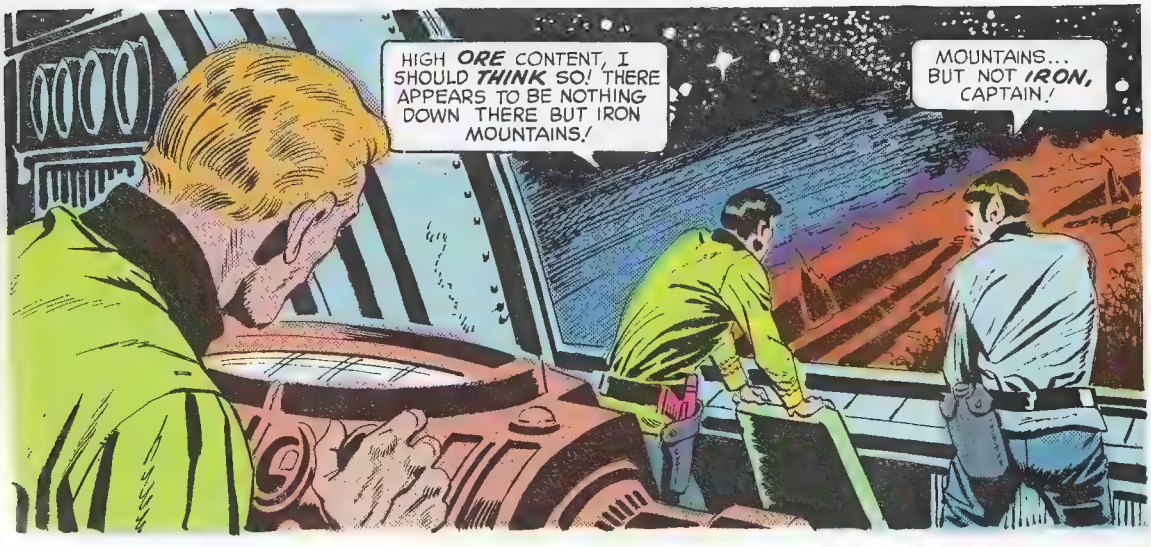
THEN, EVER SINCE YOUR PLANET BEGAN TO DIE YOUR PEOPLE HAVE LIVED ON THE SURFACE AND FARMED FOR YOUR FOOD BELOW!
THAT IS CORRECT! WE HAVE NO BUSINESS, NO GREAT INDUSTRIES... WE MERELY SURVIVE!
ONE THING, SIR! I CAN NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE COULD NOT OBSERVE YOUR ARTIFICIAL SUN VIA OUR OBSERVATIONS OF YOUR PLANET!
AH, THAT IS QUITE SIMPLE...
TO CONSERVE ITS VITAL THERMO-HYDROGEN FUEL WE TRIGGER THE SUN FORCE BUT FIVE HOURS A DAY! THAT IS QUITE SUFFICIENT!
CERTAINLY! AND THE ROTATION OF YOUR PLANET KEPT THE SUN SIDE AWAY FROM US DURING OUR JOURNEY HERE! QUITE ASTONISHING!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT, MR. SPOCK!
YES! WITH EACH HOUR THE PLANETS' SPEED TOWARD EACH OTHER ACCELERATES 8.108 GALAXY MILES! WE MUST LEAVE FOR F.P.-2 IMMEDIATELY!
MOMENTS LATER, AS THE TRANSPORTING MACHINE FROM THE ENTERPRISE BEGINS TO BLEND THE THREE INTO THE ETHER OF TIME...
WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED! HAVE COURAGE, MY FRIEND!
THANK YOU, SPACE PIONEERS! IT IS GOOD TO KNOW WE HAVE NEW FRIENDS IN THIS GALAXY!

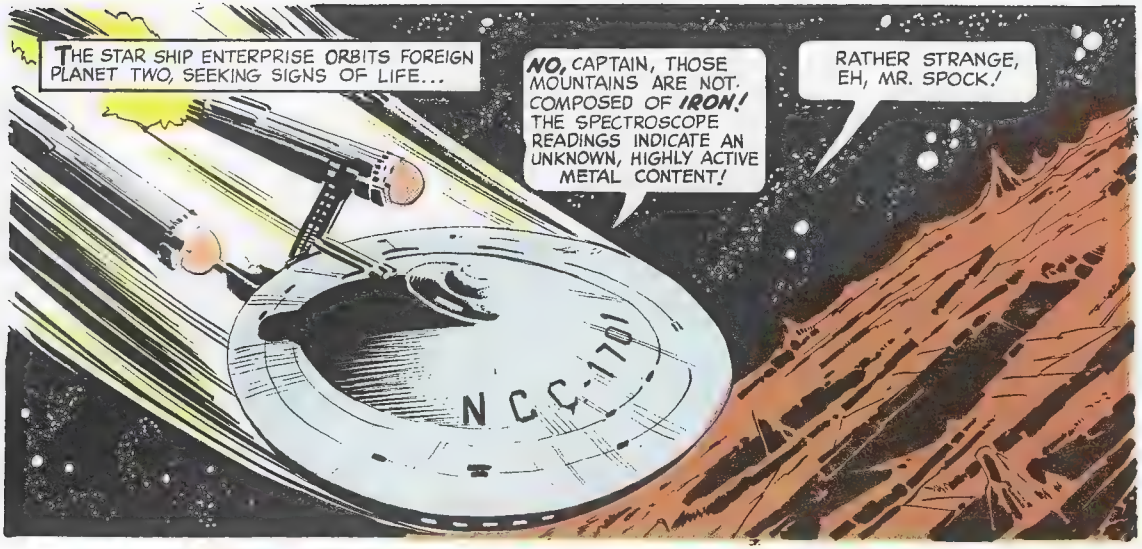
AND ONCE ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
ROCKET CONTROL! FULL ROCKETS THRUST TOWARD FOREIGN PLANET TWO!
AYE, AYE, SIR!

ALL YOUR SPECTROSCOPE READINGS INDICATE NO LIFE, MR. SPOCK!
AFFIRMATIVE!

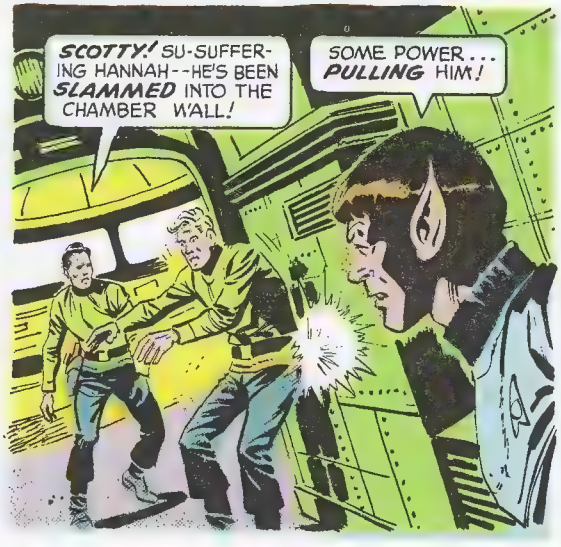

ON THE BASIS OF OXYGEN AND SURFACE FOLIAGE! LIFE AS WE KNOW IT, THAT IS!


AND HOURS LATER, AS THE ENTERPRISE NUDGES THE SPEED OF LIGHT IN HER DESPERATE FLIGHT TOWARD THE DOOMED PLANET...
ORE CONTENT OF PLANET GETTING STRONGER! IT IS OF UNKNOWN MATTER!
READY RETRO ROCKETS! PREPARE FOR ORBITING THRUST!


HIGH ORE CONTENT, I SHOULD THINK SO! THERE APPEARS TO BE NOTHING DOWN THERE BUT IRON MOUNTAINS!
MOUNTAINS... BUT NOT IRON, CAPTAIN!


THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE ORBITS FOREIGN PLANET TWO, SEEKING SIGNS OF LIFE...
NO, CAPTAIN, THOSE MOUNTAINS ARE NOT COMPOSED OF IRON! THE SPECTROSCOPE READINGS INDICATE AN UNKNOWN, HIGHLY ACTIVE METAL CONTENT!
RATHER STRANGE, EH, MR. SPOCK!
N C C-1701

THEN, AS THE CRAFT DIVES FOR CLOSER SURVEYING...
YI-YIKES!


SCOTTY! SU-SUFFERING HANNAH--HE'S BEEN SLAMMED INTO THE CHAMBER WALL!
SOME POWER... PULLING HIM!

WHAT IS IT YOU HAVE IN YOUR POCKET? SOME IMMENSELY POWERFUL FORCE IS REACTING UPON IT!
I... I...

...PICKED UP A PIECE OF ROCK FROM F.P.-1 WHEN WE LANDED... AS A-A SOUVENIR...
IT IS BEING MAGNETIZED FROM BELOW...

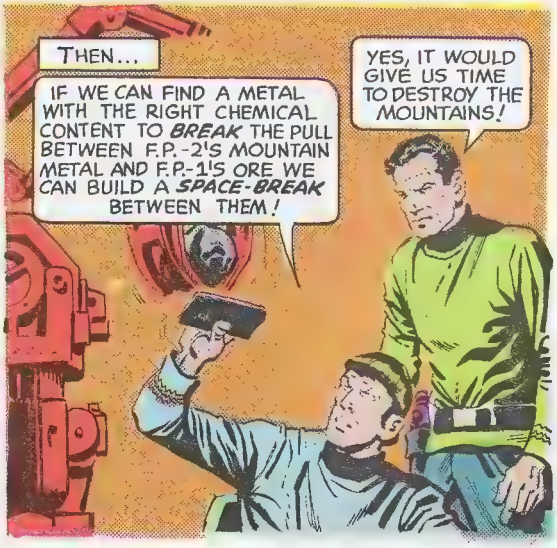
THEN, AS THE ORE IS RIPPED FROM MR. SPOCK'S HANDS...
I CAN NOT HOLD IT! RIGHT THE SHIP! HURRY!!
CRASH!
LEVEL OFF!
A FANTASTIC FORCE...EMANATING FROM THE TERRAIN OF F.P.-2 AND DRAWING UPON THAT PIECE OF ROCK... STRONGER THAN THE MOST POWERFUL ELECTRO MAGNET!
BUT HOW? WHY?
AND AS THE SPACE CRAFT LEVELS OFF, IT CREATES A BIZARRE EFFECT ON SCOTTY'S PIECE OF ORE...
OBSERVE, AS THE SHIP LEVELS...
...THE MAGNETIC PULL IS CHANGING DIRECTION...
...PULLING THE ROCK DOWNWARD TOWARD THE PLANET!
THERE IS THE ANSWER TO OUR PLANET COLLISION PROBLEM, CAPTAIN!! THE ORE IN THOSE MOUNTAIN RANGES IS REACTING UPON THE CRUST OF F.P.-1...
...THE MAGNETIC INFLUENCE IS SO POWERFUL IT SURGES THROUGH SPACE AND IS DRAWING THE PLANET TOWARD IT! A FREAK GALAXY CHEMISTRY IS CREATING THIS DISASTER!

THEN THE SOLUTION IS *SIMPLE*, MR. SPOCK--ATOMIZE THE MOUNTAINS OUT OF EXISTENCE AND ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM!
ASSUMING THERE IS NO LIFE THERE!

THERE CAN'T BE! WE'VE ORBITED THE PLANET THREE TIMES... NOT A SPARK OF LIFE SEEN! NO SURFACE DOMES... NOTHING!
WAIT!

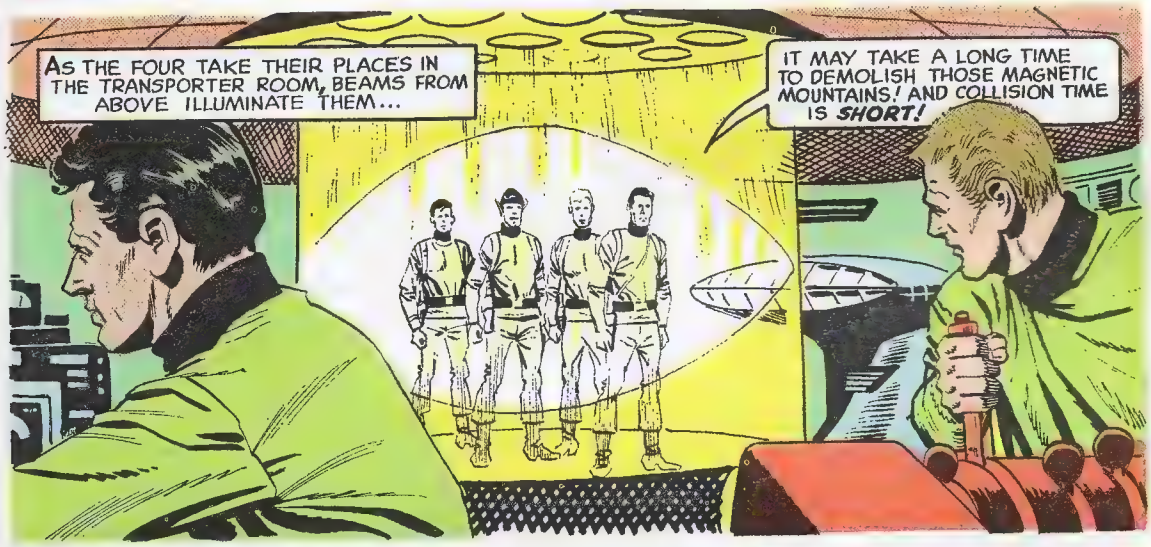
BEFORE WE TRANSPORT DOWN LET US USE THAT ORE AS A TEST PIECE! WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND A MINERAL THAT WILL *BREAK* THE MAGNETIC PULL!
GOOD!

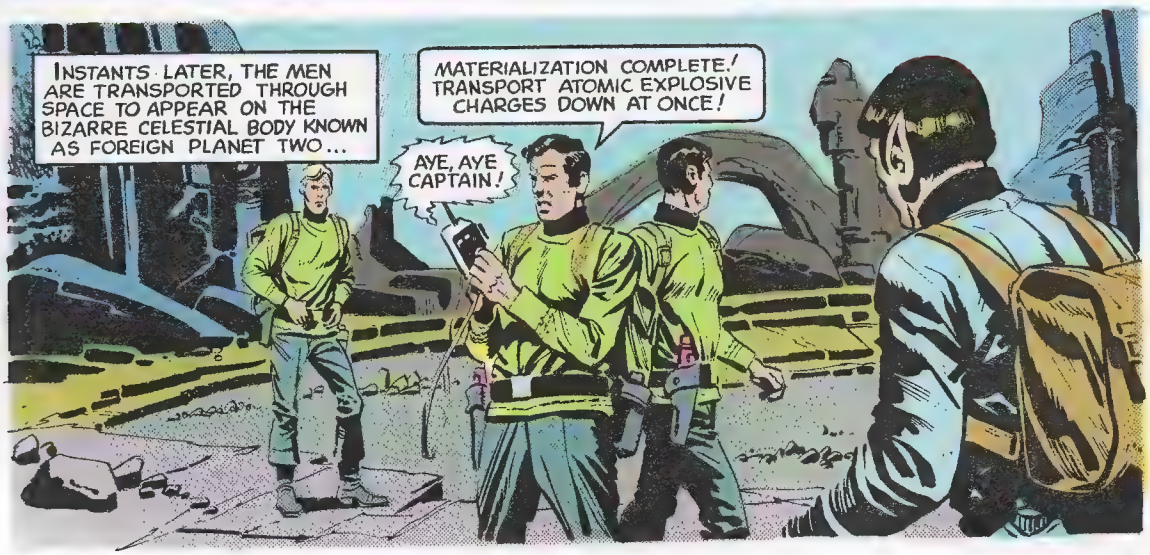
MOMENTS LATER, FOUR STRONG MEN ARE NEEDED TO WITHSTAND THE FANTASTIC PULL OF THE MOUNTAIN METAL AGAINST F.P.-1'S ORE...
REALIGN THE LAB VICE FOR OVERHEAD EXPERIMENT!
RIGHT, MR. SPOCK!


THEN...
IF WE CAN FIND A METAL WITH THE RIGHT CHEMICAL CONTENT TO *BREAK* THE PULL BETWEEN F.P.-2'S MOUNTAIN METAL AND F.P.-1'S ORE WE CAN BUILD A *SPACE-BREAK* BETWEEN THEM!
YES, IT WOULD GIVE US TIME TO DESTROY THE MOUNTAINS!

FOR TWO HOURS MR. SPOCK LABOURS TO CRACK THE SECRET, BUT ...
NO LUCK... I HAVE GONE THROUGH 101 METALS IN OUR CHEMICAL TABLE BUT THE MAGNETIC FORCE IS THE SAME!
THAT DOES IT!

THE TRANSPORTER ROOM, DR. McCOY, MR. SPOCK ... SCOTTY! WE CAN'T WASTE ANOTHER MINUTE!


AS THE FOUR TAKE THEIR PLACES IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM, BEAMS FROM ABOVE ILLUMINATE THEM...
IT MAY TAKE A LONG TIME TO DEMOLISH THOSE MAGNETIC MOUNTAINS! AND COLLISION TIME IS SHORT!


INSTANTS LATER, THE MEN ARE TRANSPORTED THROUGH SPACE TO APPEAR ON THE BIZARRE CELESTIAL BODY KNOWN AS FOREIGN PLANET TWO...
MATERIALIZATION COMPLETE! TRANSPORT ATOMIC EXPLOSIVE CHARGES DOWN AT ONCE!
AYE, AYE CAPTAIN!

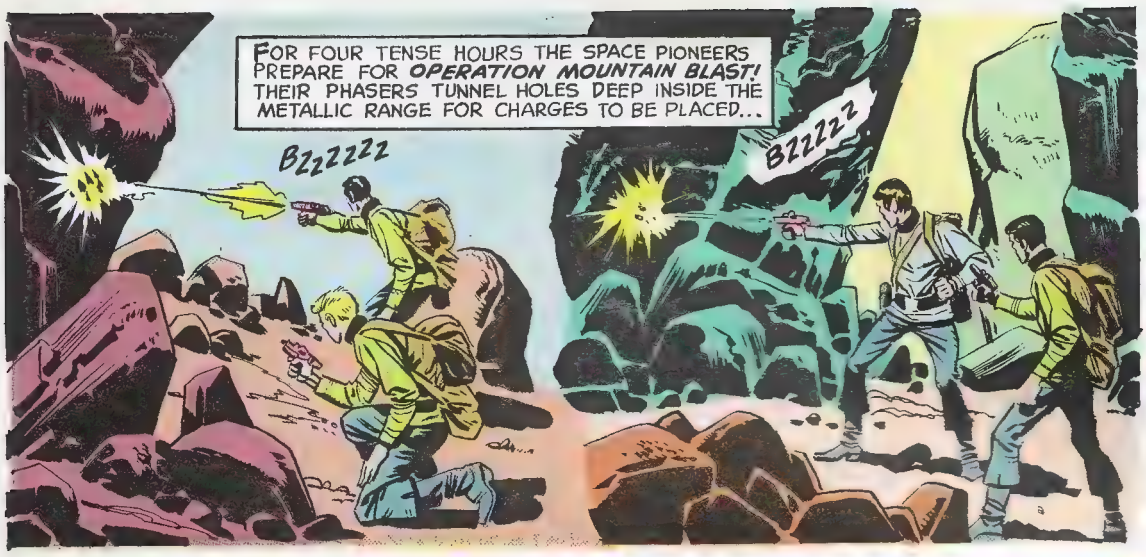
SOME SIGHT! AN UGLY BALL OF TROUBLE CATAPULTING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE! SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW SUCH THINGS CAN BE!
WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN IN THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE YET, CAPTAIN!

FROM THE APPEARANCE OF THE TERRAIN I CALCULATE ABOUT TWO TONS OF MINI-ATOMIC CHARGES WILL BE REQUIRED TO MELT THE MOUNTAIN RANGE!
OUR EXPLOSIVES!

IF THERE WAS TIME I'D BLOW THE WHOLE CUSSED PLANET UP... IT'S CERTAINLY NO USE TO THE GALAXY!
NO, I GATHER NOT, CAPTAIN! UNLESS, OF COURSE...

IT HAS SOME UNKNOWN PURPOSE AMONG THE STARS ...SUCH AS EARTH MUST HAVE HAD AT ONE TIME!
OH, COME ON... SPARE ME THAT VULCAN PHILOSOPHY OF YOURS RIGHT NOW, MR. SPOCK!

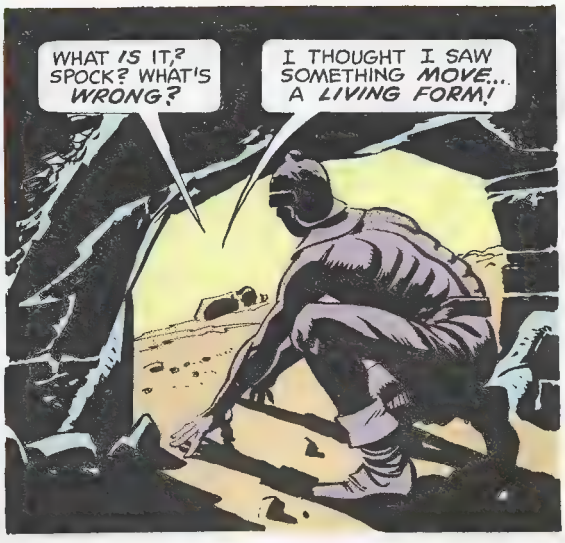
DR. McCOY, YOU AND SCOTTY TAKE THAT END OF THE RANGE! MR. SPOCK AND I WILL COVER THIS! USE YOUR PHASERS CAREFULLY MAKING THE DETONATION HOLES!


FOR FOUR TENSE HOURS THE SPACE PIONEERS PREPARE FOR OPERATION MOUNTAIN BLAST! THEIR PHASERS TUNNEL HOLES DEEP INSIDE THE METALLIC RANGE FOR CHARGES TO BE PLACED...
BZzzzz
BZZZZ

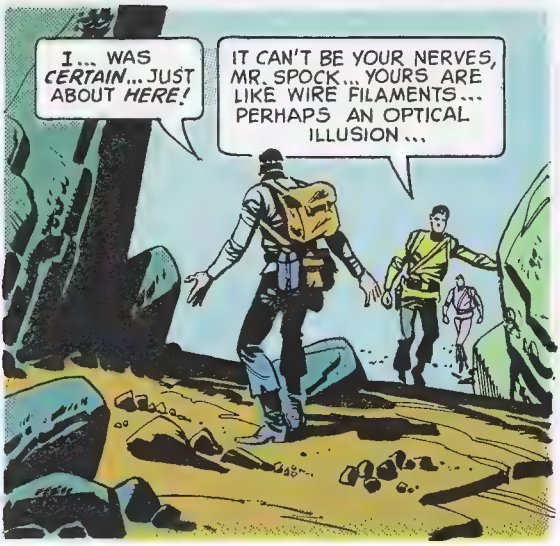
FINALLY, ALL IS "GO"..
ALL CHARGES SET, CAPTAIN.!
WE'RE READY TO ROLL HERE ALSO! RENDEZVOUS AT THE TRANSPORTER SITE... ON THE DOUBLE!

AND AS THE TEAM PREPARES TO VANISH INTO THE ETHER OF TIME FOR RETURN TO THE SHIP..
WELL, THAT IS THAT, CAPTAIN! WE MUST BE WELL OUT OF RANGE BEFORE DETONATION... POWERFUL CHARGES INDEED!
YES! READY TO THROW THE TRANSPORTER SWITCH!

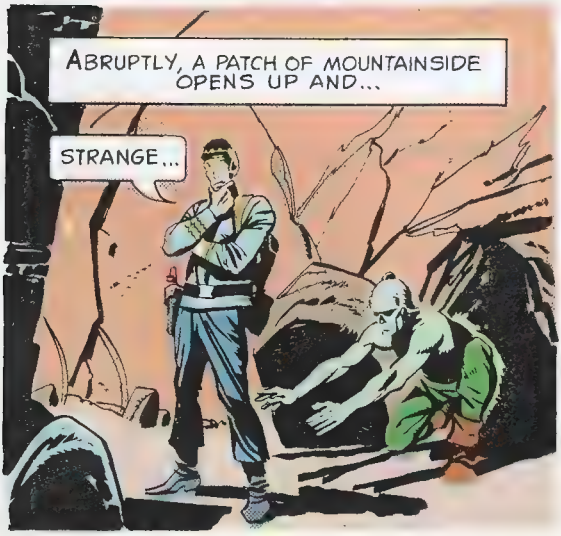
SUDDENLY...
??
WAIT!


WHAT IS IT,? SPOCK? WHAT'S WRONG?
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING MOVE... A LIVING FORM!

IT WAS OVER *HERE*... ON THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN!


I... WAS *CERTAIN*... JUST ABOUT *HERE!*
IT CAN'T BE YOUR NERVES, MR. SPOCK... YOURS ARE LIKE WIRE FILAMENTS... PERHAPS AN OPTICAL ILLUSION...

NO, NO, CAPTAIN! THERE WAS A DEFINITE MOVEMENT... A BODY... MAN OR ANIMAL, I'M NOT SURE...


ABRUPTLY, A PATCH OF MOUNTAINSIDE OPENS UP AND...
STRANGE...

THEN...
YUUUG!
HSSHHS
SPOCK!

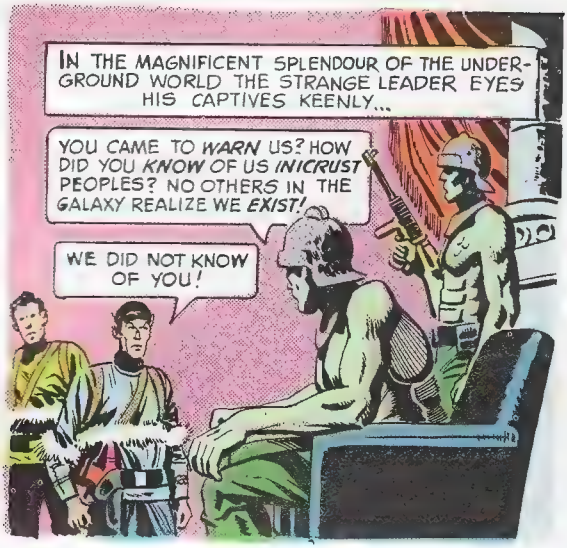
INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE MOUNTAIN SPOCK TUMBLES...
DOWN...DOWN TOWARD A YAWNING CAVERN FAR BELOW HIS BODY HURTLES...
WHILE ABOVE...
A TUNNEL... INTO THE MOUNTAIN!
SPOCK DID SEE SOMETHING...AND THEY'VE GOT HIM! BREAK OUT YOUR FLARE LIGHTS! HURRY!

AN ALIEN-- THE ONE WHO TRAPPED MR. SPOCK, NO DOUBT! LET'S GO!

BELOW SPOCK BURSTS INTO A GLARE OF WHITE LIGHT...
GR-GREAT ZOUNDS!

A SHOCKING PANORAMA OF A CIVILIZATION BENEATH THE MOUNTAINS UNFOLDS BEFORE SPOCK'S STARTLED EYES...
A WORLD... AN INTELLIGENT PEOPLE ... LIVING BENEATH THE EARTH'S CRUST!
WHO ARE YOU, ALIEN INTRUDER? WHY DO YOU SEEK ENTRANCE INTO OUR LAND?

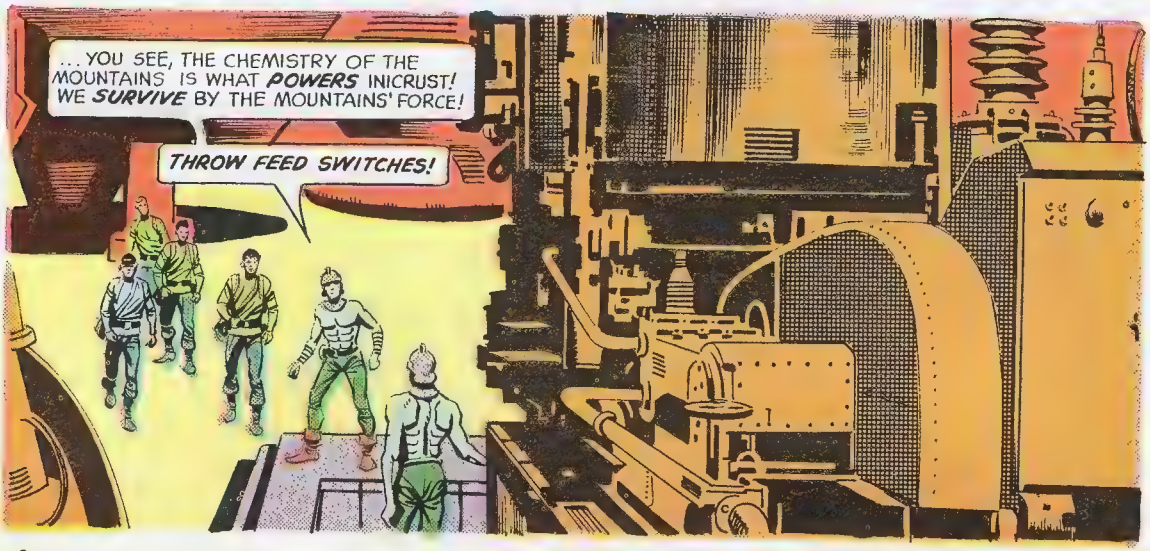
AND AS THE ALIEN SENTRY PLUMMETS INTO THE CHAMBER...
MORE ENEMIES COMING!
WAIT! WE ARE NOT FOES!
WE HAVE COME TO WARN YOU OF AN APPROACHING DISASTER TO YOUR PLANET AND TRY TO SAVE YOUR CIVILIZATION!
SO! BRING THEM TO MY THRONE CHAMBER...
FOOOSH!
FOOOSH!
...BUT LIGHT-BIND THEM WHILE I WEIGH THE TRUTH OF THEIR WORDS!

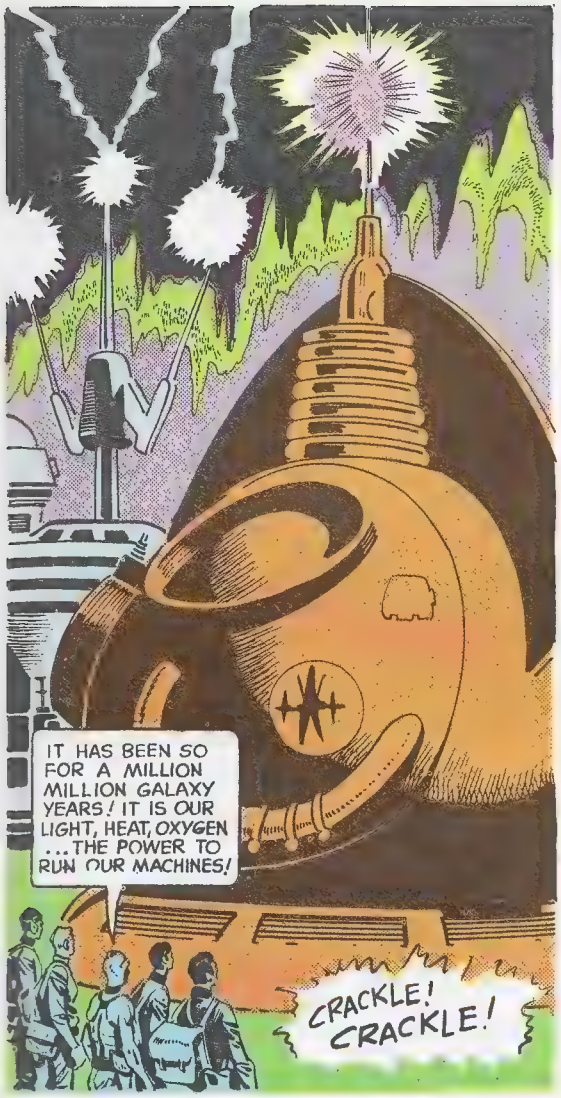

IN THE MAGNIFICENT SPLENDOUR OF THE UNDERGROUND WORLD THE STRANGE LEADER EYES HIS CAPTIVES KEENLY...
YOU CAME TO *WARN* US? HOW DID YOU *KNOW* OF US *INICRUST* PEOPLES? NO OTHERS IN THE GALAXY REALIZE WE *EXIST!*
WE DID NOT KNOW OF YOU!

IT WAS YOUR *METALLIC* MOUNTAINS THAT DREW US HERE! THE MINERALS IN THEM ARE DRAWING YOUR PLANET TO A COLLISION COURSE WITH ANOTHER!
CONTINUE!

AND WHEN SPOCK HAS EXPLAINED THE IMPENDING CALAMITY...
RELEASE THEIR BONDS! I FEARED ONE DAY OUR UNSTABLE METALS MIGHT CREATE SUCH TERROR!
WE CAN ELIMINATE THE THREAT, SIR...

...BY SKILFUL DETONATION WE CAN ATOMIZE THE MOUNTAINS WITHOUT DISTURBING YOUR WORLD BELOW!
NO! IT CANNOT BE DONE...


...YOU SEE, THE CHEMISTRY OF THE MOUNTAINS IS WHAT *POWERS* INICRUST! WE *SURVIVE* BY THE MOUNTAINS' FORCE!
THROW FEED SWITCHES!


IT HAS BEEN SO FOR A MILLION MILLION GALAXY YEARS! IT IS OUR LIGHT, HEAT, OXYGEN ...THE POWER TO RUN OUR MACHINES!
CRACKLE! CRACKLE!

EITHER WAY, THE INICRUSTS ARE DOOMED, MR. SPOCK... OUR MISSION HAS... FAILED!

08.4 STAR TIME! LESS THAN 26 HOURS BEFORE COLLISION! NOT A CHANCE TO PREVENT IT!
WAIT! PREPARE TO THROW THE TRANSPORTER SWITCH, CAPTAIN...

...THERE MAY BE ONE... VERY SLIM CHANCE!
SIR, WE WILL RETURN!

AND AS THE CREW BEGINS TO DEMATERIALIZE...
HAVE COURAGE THAT WE CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM... IN TIME!

AND MOMENTS LATER, AS THEIR BODIES TAKE FORM IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM OF THE ENTERPRISE...
IN THE NAME OF BLUE THUNDER, SPOCK! --WHAT *IS* THIS SLIM CHANCE?
ONE MOMENT MORE, CAPTAIN!

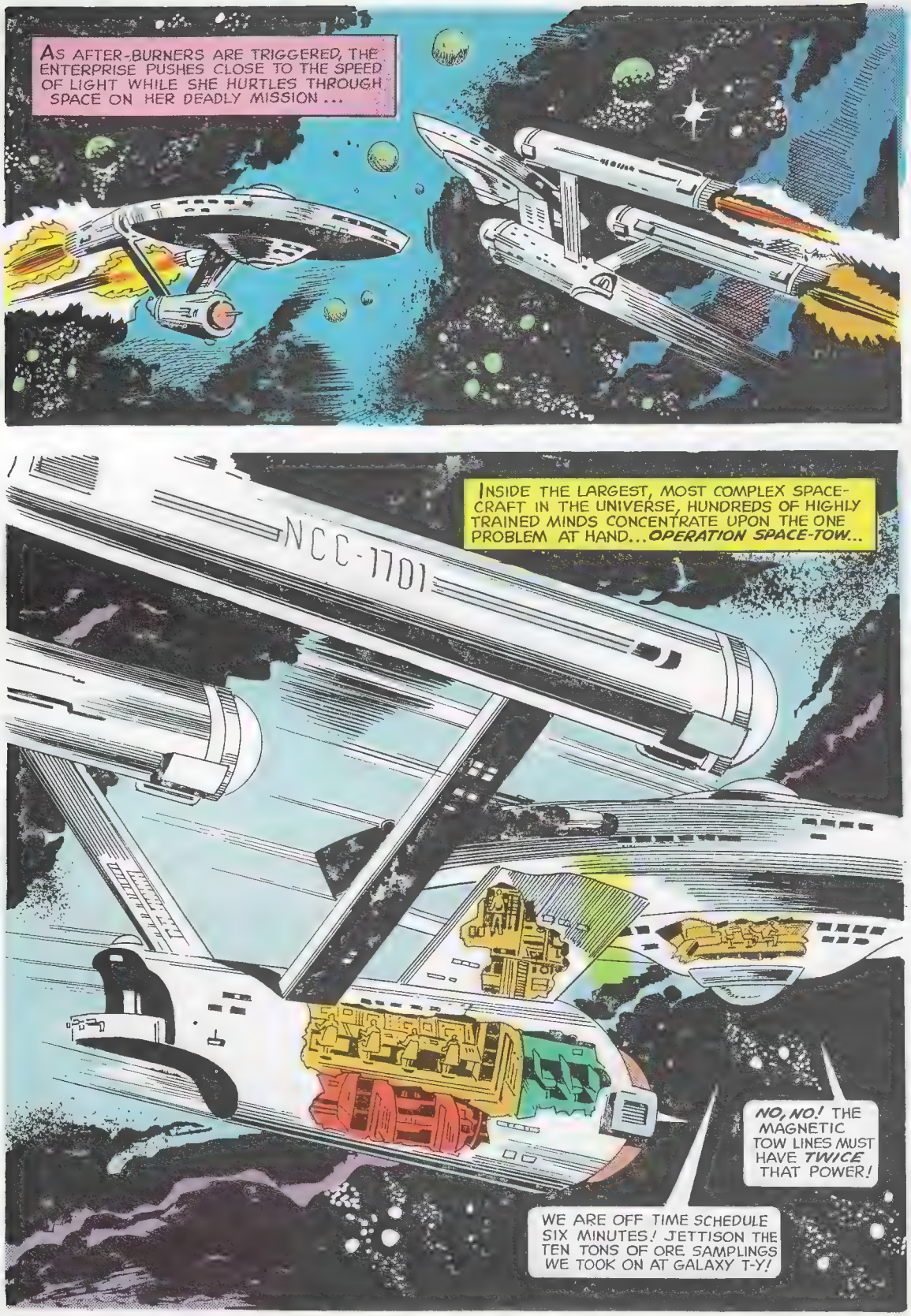
AS THE FIRST OFFICER HURRIES TO A DEEP GALAXY PROBE SCOPESCREEN...
THANKFUL SATELLITES! IT'S STILL *THERE!*
SPOCK! IS THAT THE LUMINOUS SPACE PARTICLE FROM THE STAR DOONA?

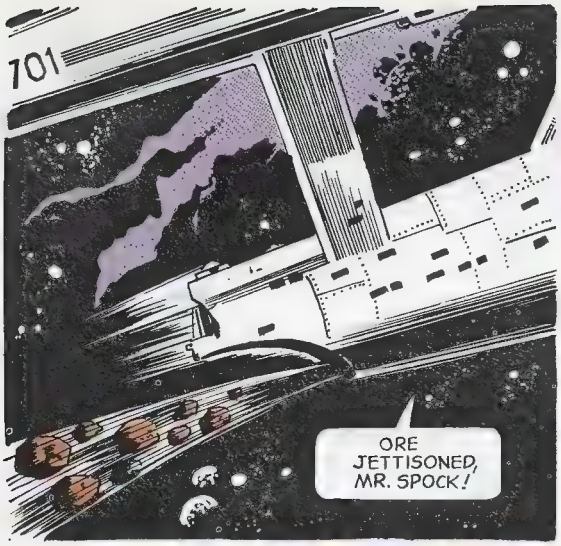
IT *IS*, CAPTAIN! A TRUE WONDER OF THE UNIVERSE...

"WHEN DOONA BECAME A SUPERNOVA AND EXPLODED, ONLY THAT ONE TEN THOUSAND-TON SECTION FAILED TO DISINTEGRATE...

"FOR CENTURIES, VULCAN SCIENTISTS OF MY PLANET STUDIED THE PHENOMENON...
TEN TIMES THE HARDNESS OF SPACE DIAMONDS...
YES, AND RADIATING A *REPELLING* FORCE OF THE TENTH MAGNITUDE!

HMMM! AND YOU THINK THE REPULSION FORCE STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP F.P.-1 AND F.P.-2 APART?
VULCAN EXPERIMENTS INDICATED SO...
...THE DOONA SPACE PARTICLE WAS FOUND TO REACT STRONGLY ON THE KIND OF CHEMICAL CONTENT BOTH PLANETS HAVE! THAT SLIM CHANCE...
IF OF COURSE, WE CAN TOW IT BACK HERE IN TIME!
YOUR DECISION, CAPTAIN?
ALL ROCKETS ON FULL! STAR COURSE DEEP GALAXY PENETRATION!
MR. SPOCK, GIVE THEM THE EXACT HEADING! I'LL BE IN THE LAB RIGGING UP AN ELECTRONIC TOW ROPE!
SPOCK DIDN'T SAY IT, BUT HE KNOWS, ALSO---
THAT AREA OF SPACE IS PLAGUED WITH METEOR SWARMS... WE'RE RISKING THE ENTERPRISE AND HER CREW TO SAVE TWO PLANETS!


AS AFTER-BURNERS ARE TRIGGERED, THE ENTERPRISE PUSHES CLOSE TO THE SPEED OF LIGHT WHILE SHE HURTLES THROUGH SPACE ON HER DEADLY MISSION ...
INSIDE THE LARGEST, MOST COMPLEX SPACE-CRAFT IN THE UNIVERSE, HUNDREDS OF HIGHLY TRAINED MINDS CONCENTRATE UPON THE ONE PROBLEM AT HAND... OPERATION SPACE-TOW...
NCC-1701
NO, NO! THE MAGNETIC TOW LINES MUST HAVE TWICE THAT POWER!
WE ARE OFF TIME SCHEDULE SIX MINUTES! JETTISON THE TEN TONS OF ORE SAMPLINGS WE TOOK ON AT GALAXY T-Y!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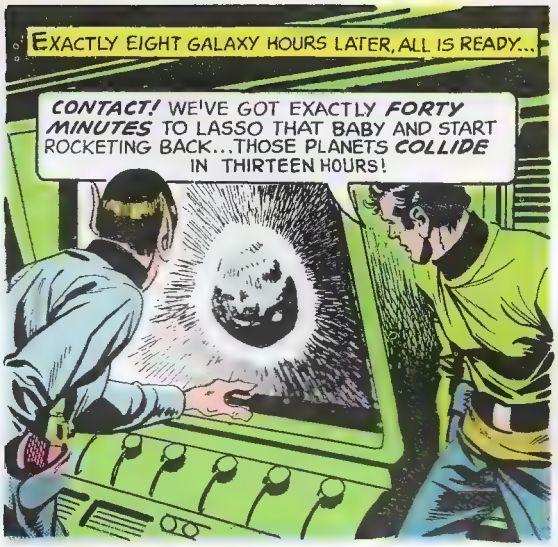
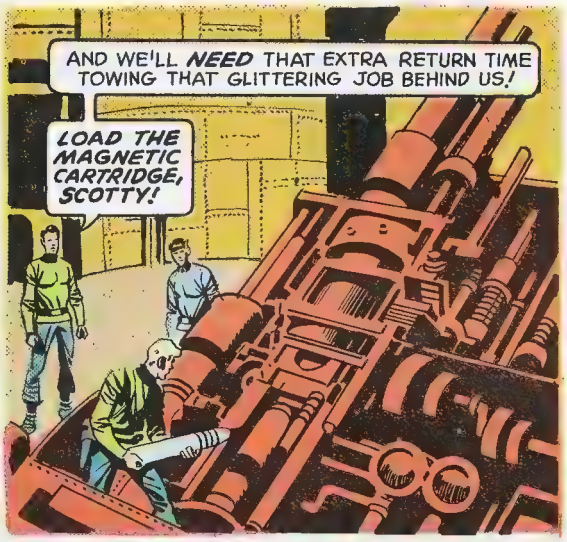
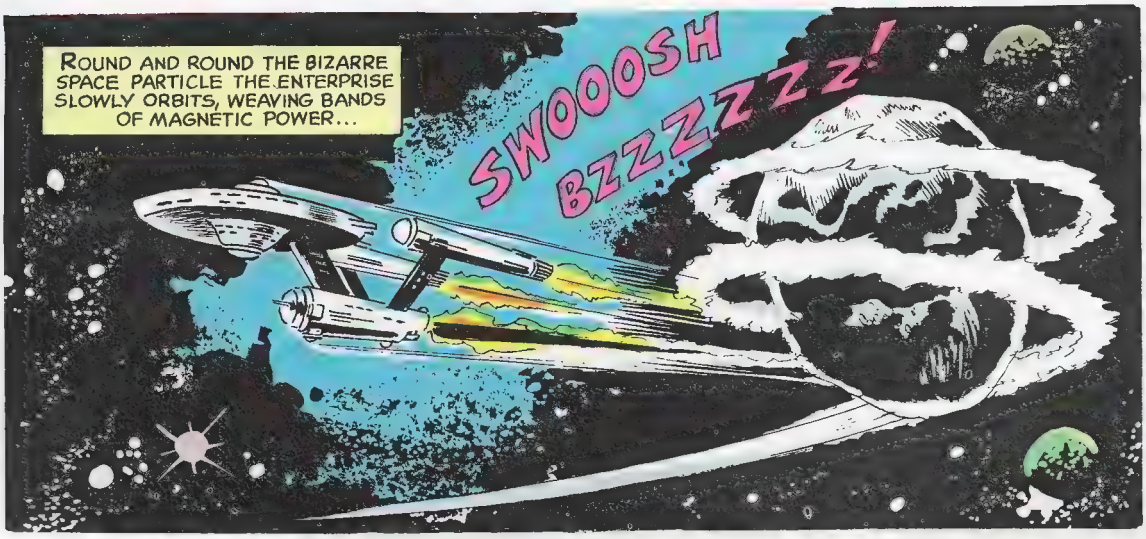
ORE JETTISONED, MR. SPOCK!

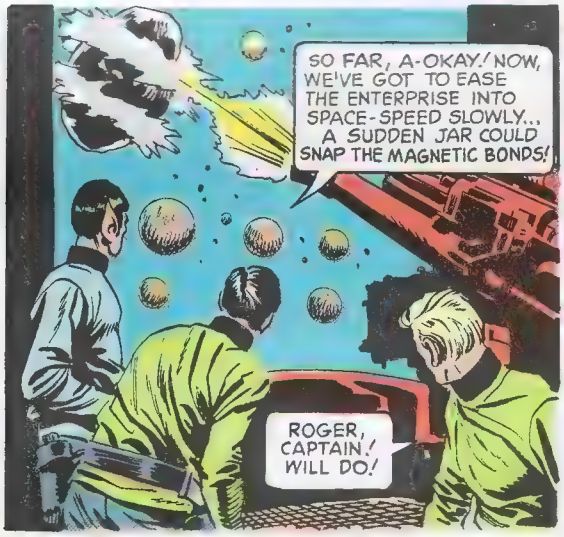

EXACTLY EIGHT GALAXY HOURS LATER, ALL IS READY...
CONTACT! WE'VE GOT EXACTLY FORTY MINUTES TO LASSO THAT BABY AND START ROCKETING BACK...THOSE PLANETS COLLIDE IN THIRTEEN HOURS!


AND WE'LL NEED THAT EXTRA RETURN TIME TOWING THAT GLITTERING JOB BEHIND US!
LOAD THE MAGNETIC CARTRIDGE, SCOTTY!

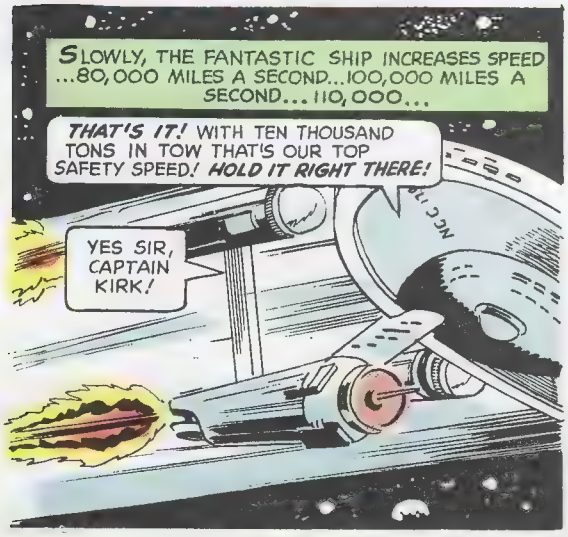
ON TARGET! TURN SHIP INTO A SLOW ORBIT ABOUT OBJECTIVE!

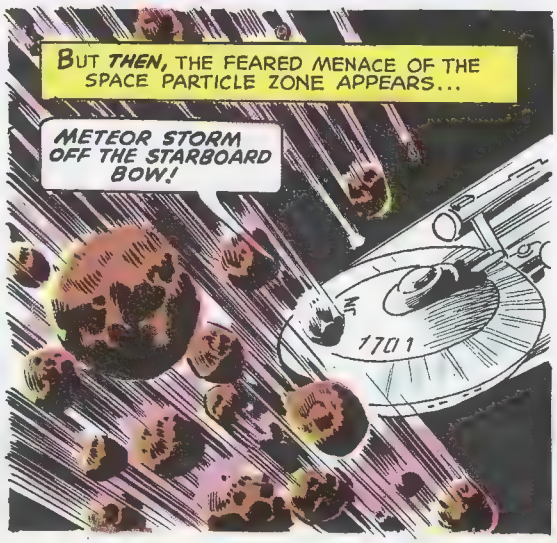

ROUND AND ROUND THE BIZARRE SPACE PARTICLE THE ENTERPRISE SLOWLY ORBITS, WEAVING BANDS OF MAGNETIC POWER...
SWOOOSH
BZZZZZZZ!

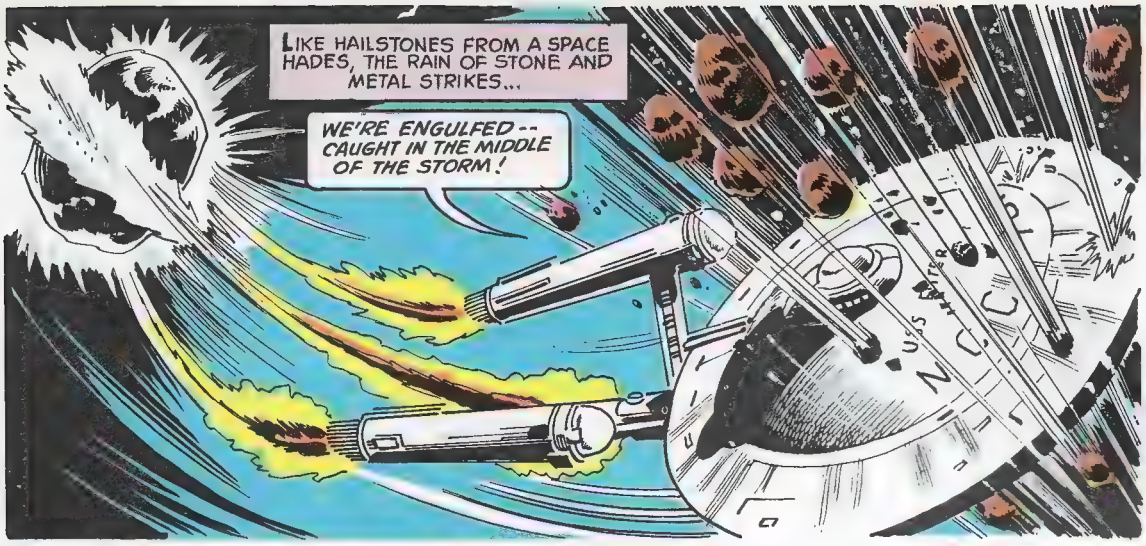
FINALLY...
MAGNETIC MESH NET COMPLETE! CUT CANNON FIRE...SECURE POWER TO ANCHOR-MAGNET!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN!
NCC 1701


SO FAR, A-OKAY! NOW, WE'VE GOT TO EASE THE ENTERPRISE INTO SPACE-SPEED SLOWLY... A SUDDEN JAR COULD SNAP THE MAGNETIC BONDS!
ROGER, CAPTAIN! WILL DO!

FASTER...FASTER, THE ENTERPRISE MOVES WITH THE LIFE-SAVING PARTICLE IN TOW...
ALL READINGS FINE!
WE'RE DOING GREAT! INCREASE SPEED!


SLOWLY, THE FANTASTIC SHIP INCREASES SPEED ...80,000 MILES A SECOND...100,000 MILES A SECOND... 110,000...
THAT'S IT! WITH TEN THOUSAND TONS IN TOW THAT'S OUR TOP SAFETY SPEED! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
YES SIR, CAPTAIN KIRK!

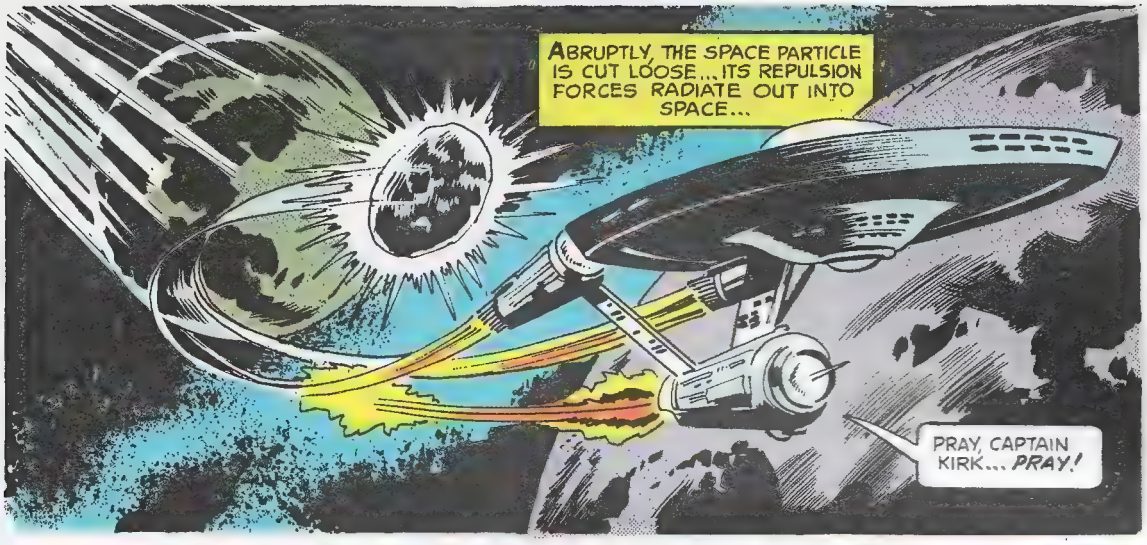

BUT THEN, THE FEARED MENACE OF THE SPACE PARTICLE ZONE APPEARS...
METEOR STORM OFF THE STARBOARD BOW!
1701

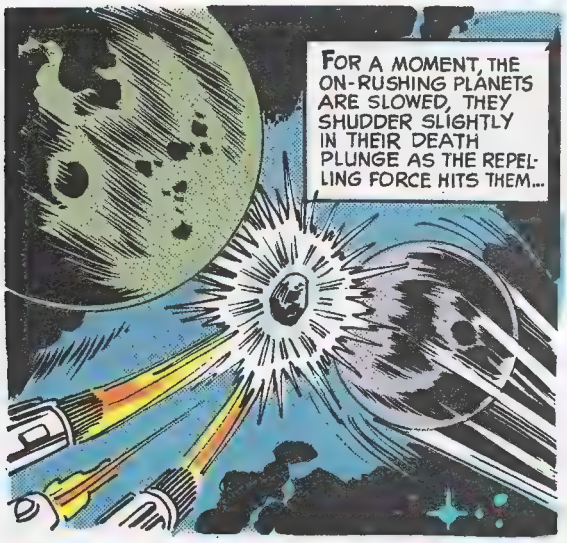

LIKE HAILSTONES FROM A SPACE HADES, THE RAIN OF STONE AND METAL STRIKES...
WE'RE ENGULFED -- CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM!

HURRY WITH THAT COUNTER-PRESSURE WHEEL! LOCK OFF THIS PASSAGE...
...CONTROL! GIVE US TOP SPEED! WE'VE GOT TO GAMBLE OUR WAY THROUGH THIS!

FOR THREE TERROR-STRICKEN MINUTES THE ENTERPRISE, BATTERED AND PUNCTURED, CAREENS THROUGH THE METEOR STORM, UNTIL...
WE ARE THROUGH, CAPTAIN... AND THE MAGNETIC BONDS REPULSED THE METEOR FROM THE PARTICLE... IT IS SAFE!
WHEW-W-W-W! REDUCE SPEED BEFORE WE RIP THE SHIP APART... AND SOMEBODY BREAK OUT A BARREL OF BLACK COFFEE!

THIRTEEN HOURS LATER, TARGET AND ASSIGNMENT: PREVENT PLANETARY COLLISION!..
THERE THEY ARE, CAPTAIN, PLANETS F.P.-1 AND F.P.-2-- STILL ON COLLISION COURSE!
WHAT IS THEIR SPEED? HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?
PRESENT SPEED OF PLANETS 25,000 M.P.H. EARTH MILES... INCREASING... I CALCULATE WE HAVE FOUR GALAXY MINUTES!
NO GOOD! WITH OUR TOW TONNAGE WE'RE TOO SLOW... CONTROL! FIRE AFTER-BURNERS AGAIN! THIS IS ALL OUT!
THE SHOWDOWN! WE'LL EITHER GET THERE IN TIME... OR WE'LL BE PULVERIZED BY THE MOST CATACLYSMIC EXPLOSION IN SPACE HISTORY!
WITH EXTRA SPEED FROM THE AFTER-BURNERS, THE SHIP CAREENS INTO SPACE BETWEEN THE TWO PLANETS... BUT THERE IS STILL ONE VITAL QUESTION...
WE MADE IT! BUT HOW, MR. SPOCK, WILL THE REPELLING FORCE WORK?


ABRUPTLY, THE SPACE PARTICLE IS CUT LOOSE... ITS REPULSION FORCES RADIATE OUT INTO SPACE...
PRAY, CAPTAIN KIRK... *PRAY!*

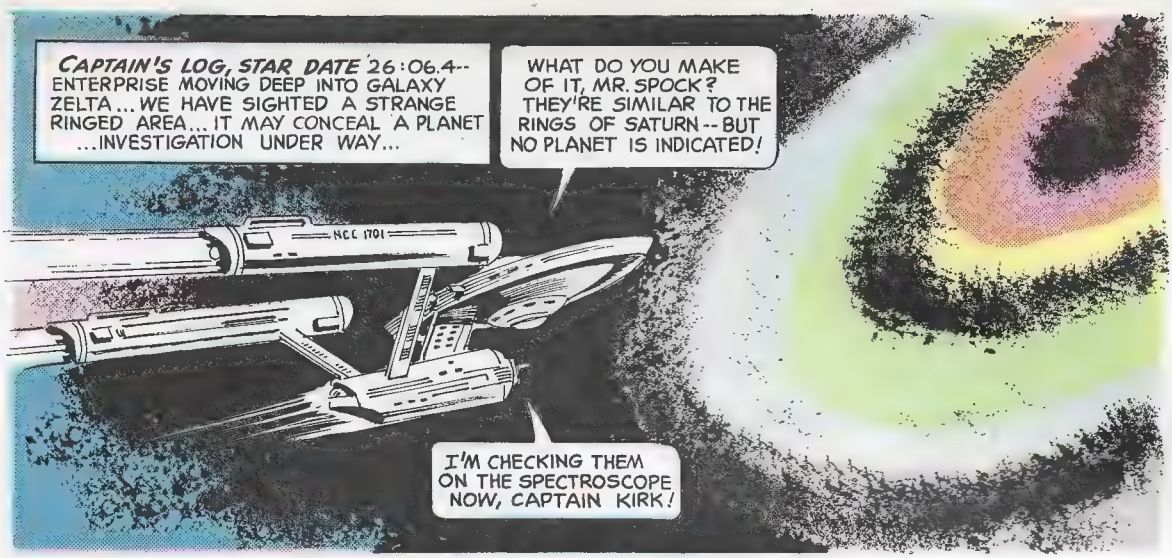

FOR A MOMENT, THE ON-RUSHING PLANETS ARE SLOWED, THEY SHUDDER SLIGHTLY IN THEIR DEATH PLUNGE AS THE REPELLING FORCE HITS THEM...

THEN, MAJESTICALLY, THEY BRAKE TO A HALT AND HOVER IN THE SKIES OF SPACE...
IT *WORKED*, MR. SPOCK! THE RAYS ARE SEPARATING THEM! HOW BAD WAS THE SHOCK TO THEM?
PROBABLY QUITE NOTICEABLE, CAPTAIN... LIKE A MODERATE EARTHQUAKE!

BUT, REMEMBER, THERE ARE NO SURFACE BUILDINGS TO TUMBLE ON EITHER PLANET! I AM QUITE CERTAIN ...THEY SURVIVED!

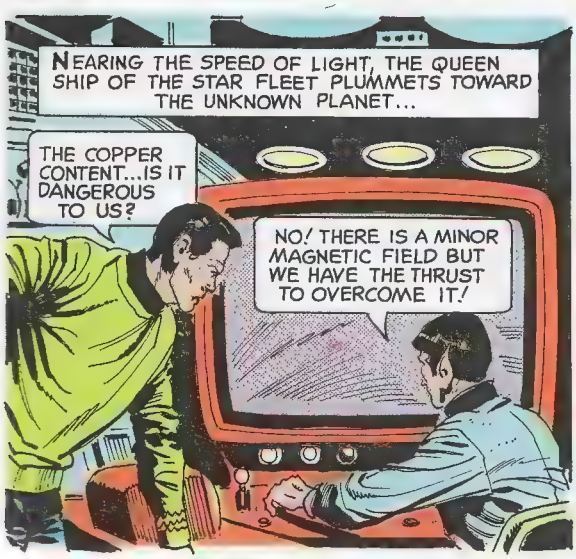
AND SO DID WE! THAT REPELLENT POWER SHOULD HOLD FOR CENTURIES... AND BY THAT TIME PERHAPS THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE WILL KNOW HOW TO *REALLY* SOLVE THIS PROBLEM!
PRECISELY MY THINKING, CAPTAIN!

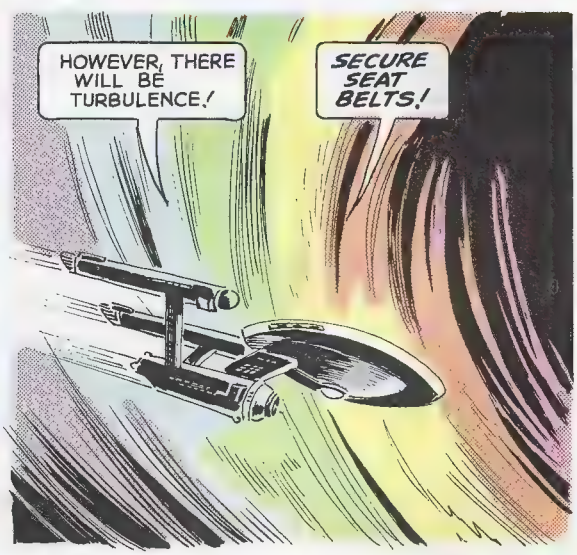
STAR TREK
The GHOST PLANET
PART I
HIGH ABOVE THE STRANGE UNPOPULATED WORLD THE CREW OF THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE BATTLE TO SAVE A DOOMED PLANET... BUT THEY CANNOT KNOW OF THE FATE THAT AWAITS THEM ONCE THEY SUCCEED!
OUR MAGNETIC PULL HAS SMASHED THE DEADLY RAINBOW BANDS, CAPTAIN KIRK!
YES, MR. SPOCK! BUT CUT POWER BEFORE THOSE BANDS REACH US OR THEY'LL PENETRATE THE ENTERPRISE!
THE VISITORS APPEAR TO HAVE FREED OUR PLANET... AND IF SO THEY MUST DIE!


CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 26:06.4--ENTERPRISE MOVING DEEP INTO GALAXY ZELTA... WE HAVE SIGHTED A STRANGE RINGED AREA... IT MAY CONCEAL A PLANET ...INVESTIGATION UNDER WAY...
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK? THEY'RE SIMILAR TO THE RINGS OF SATURN -- BUT NO PLANET IS INDICATED!
NCC 1701
I'M CHECKING THEM ON THE SPECTROSCOPE NOW, CAPTAIN KIRK!

THE RINGS ARE COMPOSED OF A COPPER CONTENT, CAPTAIN! THEY ARE CIRCULATING AROUND A... PLANET!
ARE YOU CERTAIN, MR. SPOCK?

AFFIRMATIVE, THE EVIDENCE ON THE SPECTROSCOPE IS UNASSAILABLE!
A PLANET WRAPPED IN RAINBOW RINGS!
ROCKETS ON FULL! SAME COURSE!

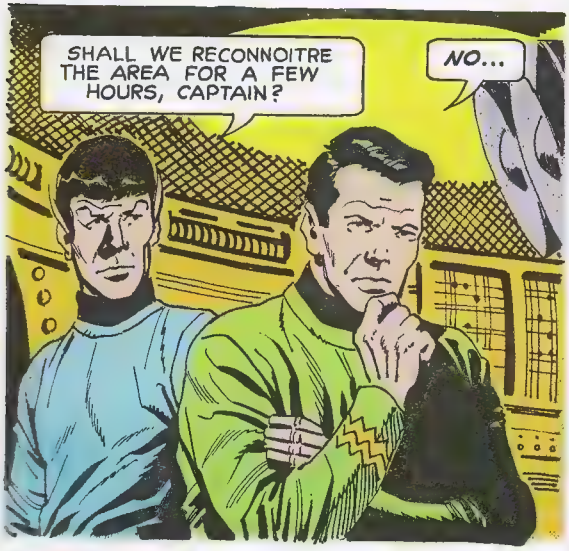

NEARING THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE QUEEN SHIP OF THE STAR FLEET PLUMMETS TOWARD THE UNKNOWN PLANET...
THE COPPER CONTENT...IS IT DANGEROUS TO US?
NO! THERE IS A MINOR MAGNETIC FIELD BUT WE HAVE THE THRUST TO OVERCOME IT!


HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE TURBULENCE!
SECURE SEAT BELTS!

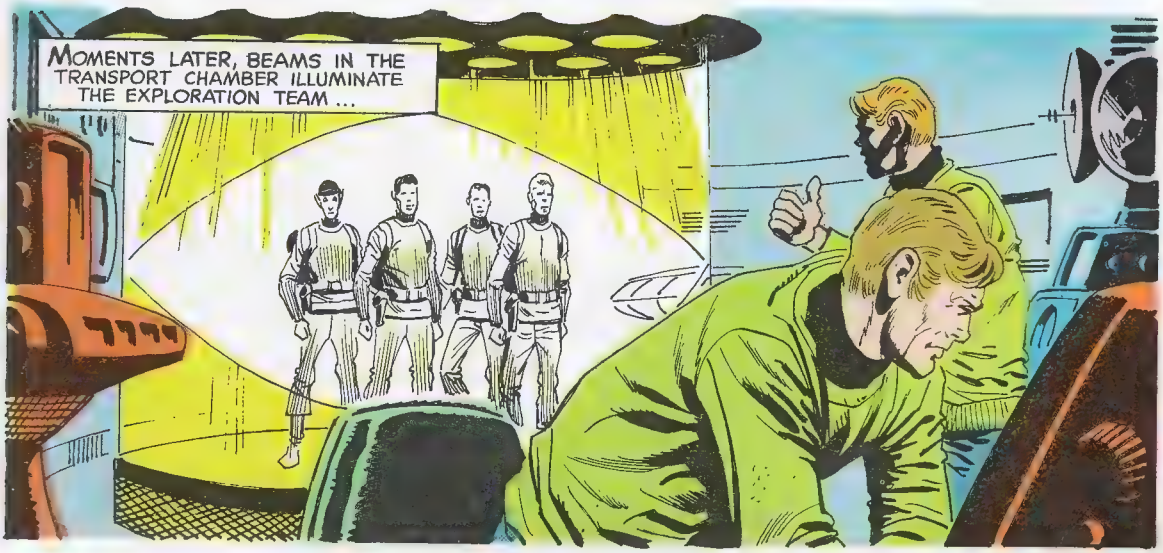
LIKE A GIANT, FIRE-BREATHING ANIMAL THE ENTERPRISE WHIPLASHES INTO THE MULTICOLOURED MAGNETIC FIELD RINGS...
STABILIZERS! RIG THE STABILIZERS FOR EXTREME PRESSURE! MR. SPOCK! WHAT IS THE DEPTH WE MUST PENETRATE?
TWO LUNAR MILES! OBSERVE! THERE TO STARBOARD... A SECTION OF PLANET IS COMING INTO VIEW!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE NCC-1701
THEN, THE TURBULENCE CEASES... AND THE SPACE CRAFT CAREENS FREE ABOVE A MAJESTIC NEW WORLD...
GR-GREAT NOVAS! YOU WERE CORRECT, MR. SPOCK--A BRAND NEW PLANET LOCKED BEHIND THOSE RAINBOW RINGS!
AND A MOST UNUSUAL ONE, CAPTAIN! I'M GETTING RADIOACTIVE IMPULSES!

RADIOACTIVITY! CAN YOU PINPOINT IT?
NO, IT IS VERY FAINT! BUT IT IS PRESENT!
TRIGGER TELESCOPIC VIEW CAMERA!

AN EMPTY CITY ... NOT A CITIZEN, VEHICLE OR MOVING THING! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK?
ONE CANNOT JUDGE SO QUICKLY! PERHAPS A GHOST TOWN!!

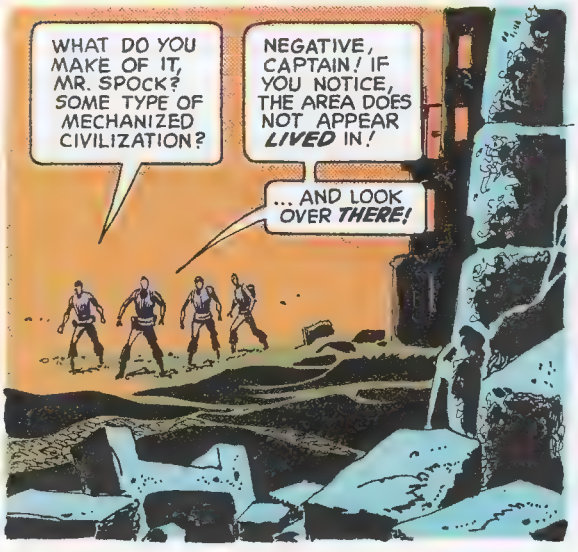

SHALL WE RECONNOITRE THE AREA FOR A FEW HOURS, CAPTAIN?
NO...

...THAT WOULD JUST MAKE OUR PRESENCE POSITIVELY KNOWN ... IF IT ISN'T ALREADY! WE'LL BEAM DOWN!
PICK TWO MEN FROM THE CREW AND COME WITH ME, MR. SPOCK! DR. McCOY, YOU KEEP CONTACT WITH US FROM HERE!


MOMENTS LATER, BEAMS IN THE TRANSPORT CHAMBER ILLUMINATE THE EXPLORATION TEAM ...

AND A MICRO-SECOND LATER, THE FOUR-MAN TEAM MATERIALIZES ON THE MYSTERIOUS GHOST PLANET...

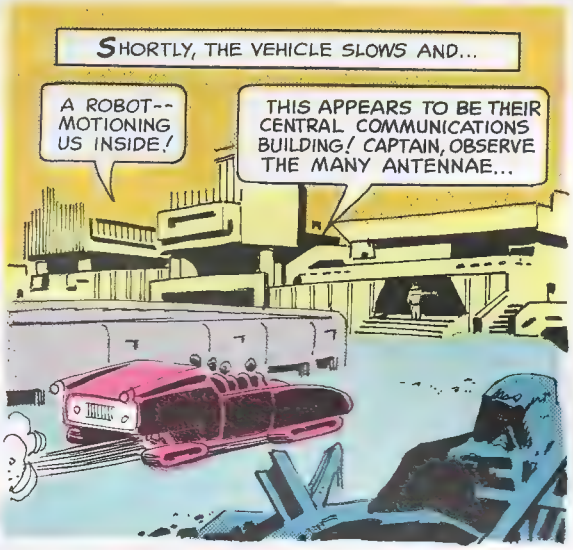
SUDDENLY, A HOLLOW VOICE BOOMS OUT IN THE EMPTY SQUARE...
WELCOME, VISITORS! TRANSPORTATION IS EN ROUTE FOR YOU!


WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK? SOME TYPE OF MECHANIZED CIVILIZATION?
NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN! IF YOU NOTICE, THE AREA DOES NOT APPEAR LIVED IN!
... AND LOOK OVER THERE!

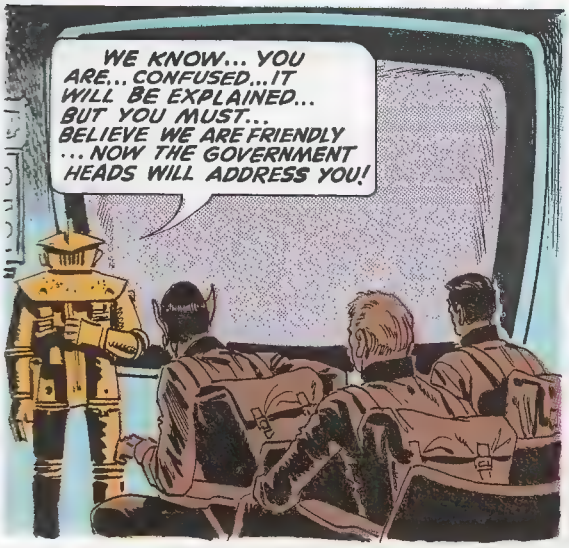
PART OF THE CITY IN RUINS! A HOLOCAUST! PERHAPS A CITY BURNED OUT!
I BELIEVE NOT! THERE ARE DEEP INDENTATIONS IN THE GROUND...

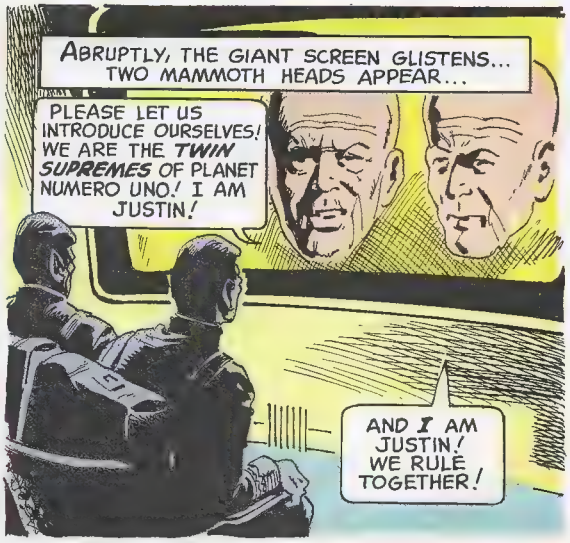
... SIMILAR TO THOSE MADE BY BOMBING DURING A WAR!
HERE'S OUR VEHICLE ...ROBOT CONTROLLED! KEEP YOUR PHASERS READIED, PEOPLE!

THIS IS EERIE, CAPTAIN! SHOULD WE GO THROUGH WITH IT?
WE'RE PREPARED! PEOPLE WITH A CIVILIZATION LIKE THIS CAN'T BE FOOLS--THEY MUST KNOW WE HAVE A SHIP HOVERING ABOVE THAT COULD DESTROY THEM AT ANY SIGN OF TREACHERY!

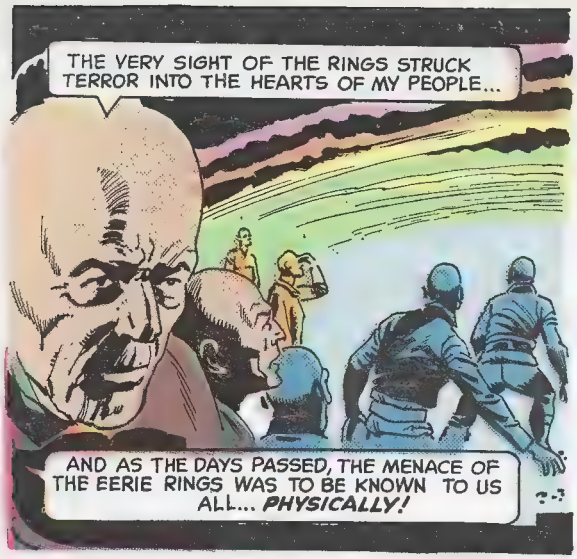

SHORTLY, THE VEHICLE SLOWS AND...
A ROBOT-- MOTIONING US INSIDE!
THIS APPEARS TO BE THEIR CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING! CAPTAIN, OBSERVE THE MANY ANTENNAE...

PLEASE... TAKE YOUR... SEATS!
VERY DRAMATIC! AT LEAST THEY SPEAK THE INTERPLANETARY LANGUAGE ESPERANTA!

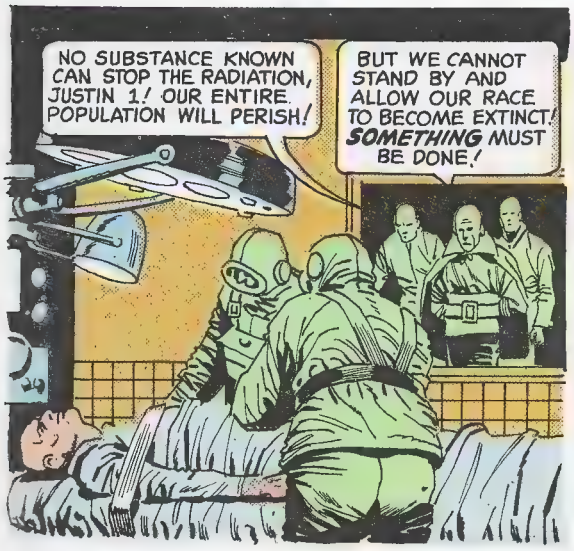

WE KNOW... YOU ARE... CONFUSED... IT WILL BE EXPLAINED... BUT YOU MUST... BELIEVE WE ARE FRIENDLY ... NOW THE GOVERNMENT HEADS WILL ADDRESS YOU!

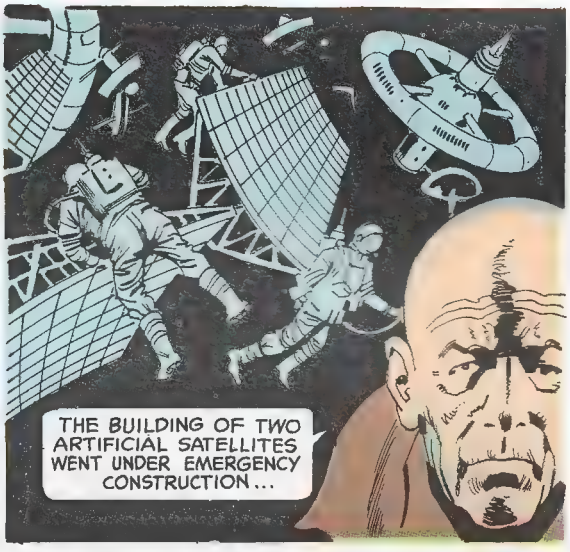

ABRUPTLY, THE GIANT SCREEN GLISTENS... TWO MAMMOTH HEADS APPEAR...
PLEASE LET US INTRODUCE OURSELVES! WE ARE THE TWIN SUPREMES OF PLANET NUMERO UNO! I AM JUSTIN!
AND I AM JUSTIN! WE RULE TOGETHER!

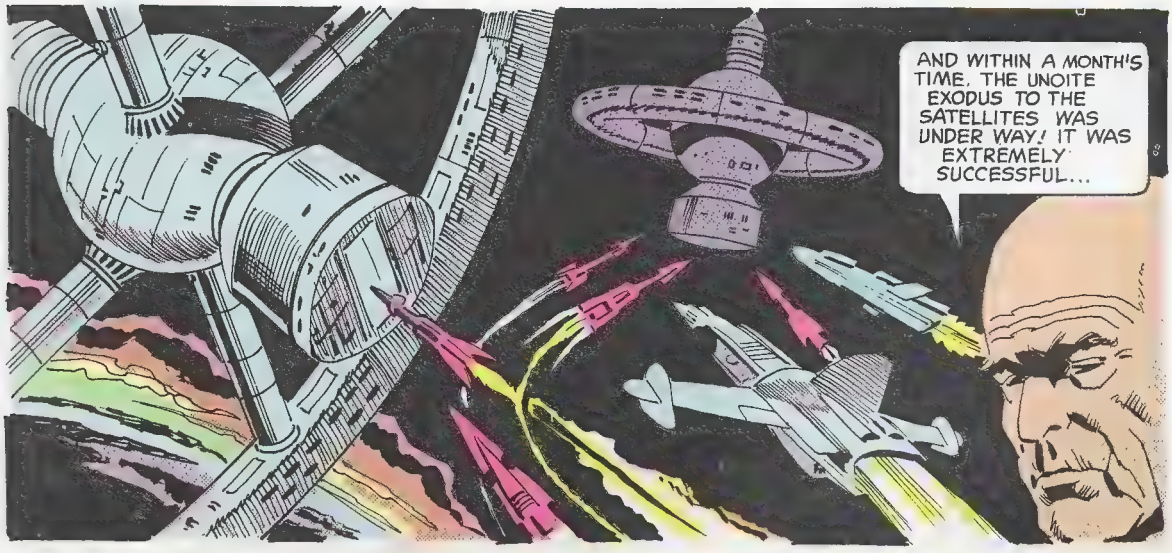
AND I AM CAPTAIN KIRK OF THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE! OUR MISSION IS TO AID THOSE OF THE PLANETARY SYSTEM WHO MAY BE IN NEED!
BUT THE TREATMENT YOU OFFER IS INSULTING! EITHER IDENTIFY YOURSELVES PROPERLY OR WE WILL LEAVE!
PLEASE... I APOLOGIZE... WE APOLOGIZE! CAPTAIN KIRK--IF YOU WILL BE PATIENT AND HEAR OUR TERRIBLE STORY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND!
VERY WELL! SPEAK!
AND AS JUSTIN ONE SPEAKS, THE SCREEN ENLARGES...TO TAKE IN A TERRIFYING SIGHT...
IT WAS JUST A LUNAR SUN AGO THAT THE TERROR MOVED IN UPON OUR PLANET...THE TERRIBLE RAINBOW RINGS THAT WERE SOON TO THROTTLE AND DRIVE US FROM THE PLANET OF OUR ANCESTORS...

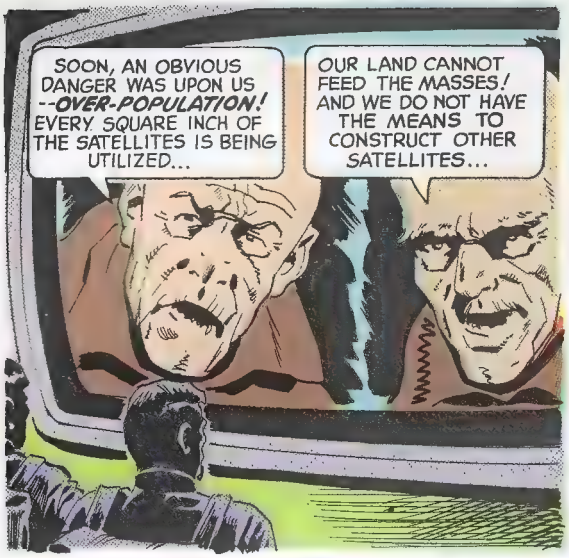

THE VERY SIGHT OF THE RINGS STRUCK TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF MY PEOPLE...
AND AS THE DAYS PASSED, THE MENACE OF THE EERIE RINGS WAS TO BE KNOWN TO US ALL... PHYSICALLY!

FOR THE OMINOUS BANDS EMITTED A STRANGE COPPER RADIATION THAT AFFECTED OUR BODIES!


NO SUBSTANCE KNOWN CAN STOP THE RADIATION, JUSTIN 1! OUR ENTIRE POPULATION WILL PERISH!
BUT WE CANNOT STAND BY AND ALLOW OUR RACE TO BECOME EXTINCT! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!

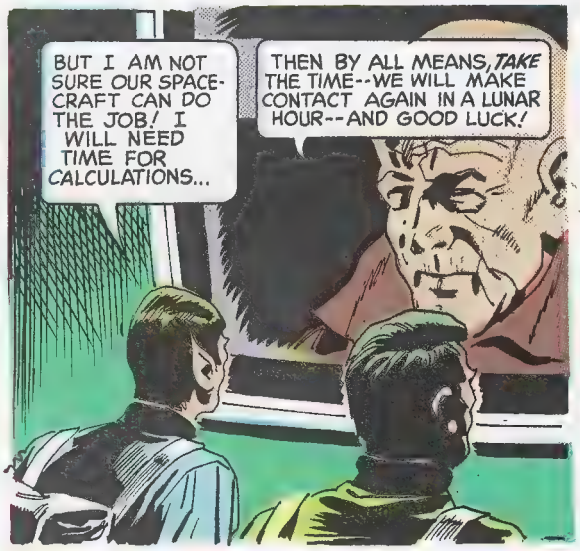

THE BUILDING OF TWO ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES WENT UNDER EMERGENCY CONSTRUCTION...


AND WITHIN A MONTH'S TIME, THE UNOITE EXODUS TO THE SATELLITES WAS UNDER WAY! IT WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL...


SOON, AN OBVIOUS DANGER WAS UPON US --OVER-POPULATION! EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THE SATELLITES IS BEING UTILIZED...
OUR LAND CANNOT FEED THE MASSES! AND WE DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO CONSTRUCT OTHER SATELLITES...

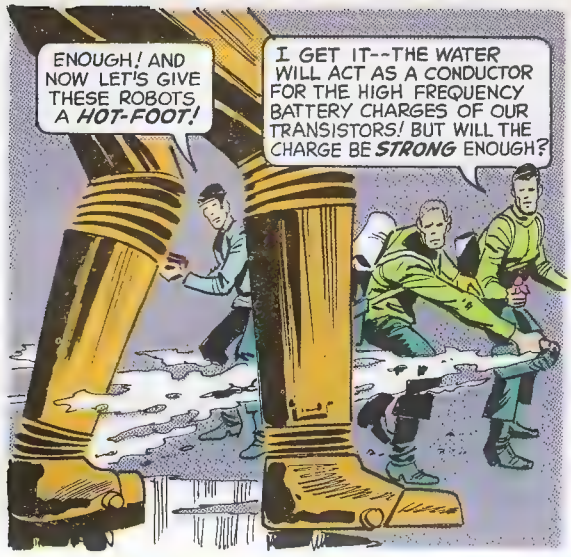
...OR WEAPONS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE DOOM RINGS! WE THOUGHT, PERHAPS, YOU MAY HAVE THE MEANS TO HELP US...
DESTROY THE RINGS? I-I DON'T KNOW-- WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. SPOCK?

LASER BEAMS WOULD MOST CERTAINLY SHATTER THE RINGS, CAPTAIN-- BUT THE CONTAMINATED MATTER WOULD STILL ORBIT THE PLANET...
THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO MAGNETICALLY PULL THE RINGS AWAY FROM THE PLANET AND INTO DEEP SPACE...


BUT I AM NOT SURE OUR SPACECRAFT CAN DO THE JOB! I WILL NEED TIME FOR CALCULATIONS...
THEN BY ALL MEANS, TAKE THE TIME--WE WILL MAKE CONTACT AGAIN IN A LUNAR HOUR--AND GOOD LUCK!

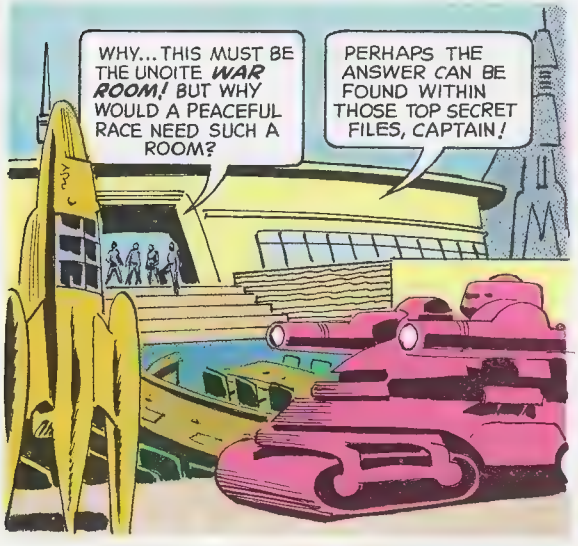
MR. SPOCK-- SOMETHING IS TROUBLING YOU!
CURIOSITY, CAPTAIN! WHY DID THE UNOITES BUILD TWO SEPARATE SATELLITES! AND THEN ...
CAPTAIN, SIR! THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SEE IN THE NEXT ROOM!

JUST TWO ROBOT GUARDS -- THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE! THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT!
THAT'S WHAT WE THOUGHT, SIR -- UNTIL WE TRIED TO ENTER THE ROOM! WATCH THIS...
ALL THE OTHER TIN MEN HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY! BUT WHEN WE MOVED TOWARDS THE DOOR LIKE THIS...
LOOK OUT! THEY'RE LUNGING FOR YOU...
Y-YIPES!
THEY'VE... SNARED HIM!
WE CAN'T RISK A SHOT AT THOSE ROBOTS -- WE MAY HIT OUR MAN!
AND THEY MAY KILL HIM INSTANTLY ...BEFORE WE CAN ACT!
HMM-M... I HAVE AN IDEA, CAPTAIN! LET ME HAVE YOUR 'COMMUNICATIONS TRANSISTOR...
DENTON! YOUR CANTEEN WATER... SPLASH IT AT THE FEET OF THE ROBOTS...
YES SIR, MR. SPOCK!


ENOUGH! AND NOW LET'S GIVE THESE ROBOTS A HOT-FOOT!
I GET IT--THE WATER WILL ACT AS A CONDUCTOR FOR THE HIGH FREQUENCY BATTERY CHARGES OF OUR TRANSISTORS! BUT WILL THE CHARGE BE STRONG ENOUGH?

AT LEAST IT'S GIVING THEM A GOOD JOLT...

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. SPOCK--YOU MADE JUNK HEAPS OUT OF THEM!
AND NOW LET US LEARN WHAT IS BEHIND THAT DOOR--- IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO PROGRAMME HOSTILITY INTO THOSE ROBOT GUARDS!


WHY...THIS MUST BE THE UNOITE WAR ROOM! BUT WHY WOULD A PEACEFUL RACE NEED SUCH A ROOM?
PERHAPS THE ANSWER CAN BE FOUND WITHIN THOSE TOP SECRET FILES, CAPTAIN!

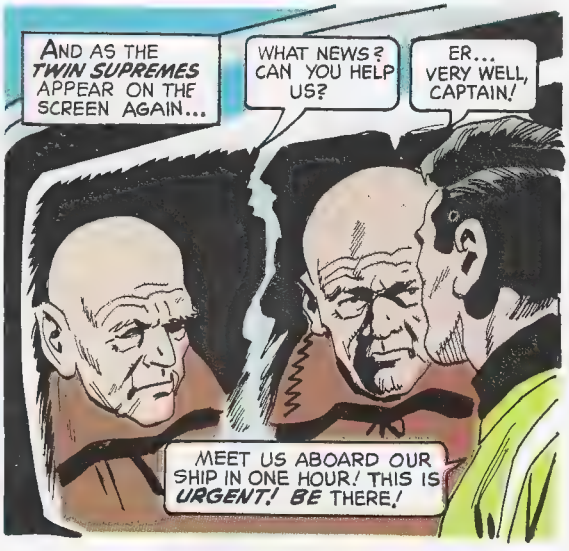
THE CURIOUS HUMANS RUMMAGE THROUGH THE FILES--AND SUDDENLY FREEZE IN THEIR TRACKS AS...
HERE IS THE ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION, CAPTAIN--OBSERVE THESE PHOTOGRAPHS!
NO WONDER THEY PROGRAMMED THEIR ROBOTS TO GUARD THIS ROOM WITH THEIR MECHANICAL "LIVES"!

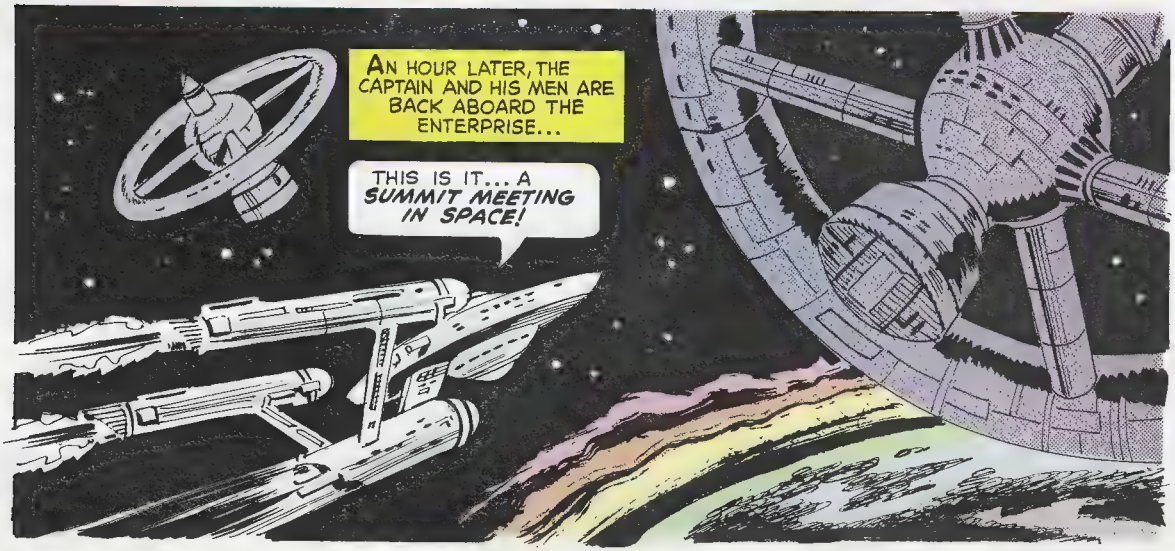
OUR LEADER JUSTIN I LEADING ASSAULT AGAINST JUSTIN II'S REBELS
REBELS BOMB CAPITAL
CASUALTIES
JUSTIN I
ORANGE ARMY
37,000
JUSTIN II
GREEN ARMY
103,000
POPULATION
453,000 DEAD
BURIAL OF CIVILIANS AFTER RAID.
RETALIATION AGAINST GREEN REBELS

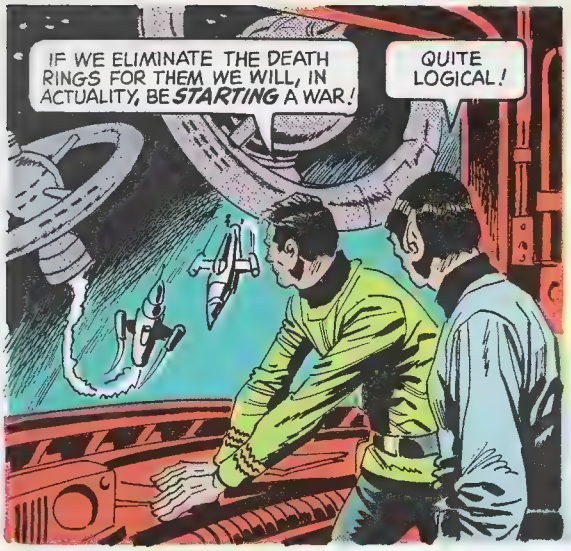
THE PLANET NUMERO UNO WAS ENGAGED IN A DEADLY WAR! THESE ARE NOT THE HELPLESS PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE THEY FEIGN TO BE!
THAT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL!

IT FOLLOWS THAT THEY WERE FORCED TO CALL A TRUCE WHEN THE DEADLY RINGS ENCIRCLED THE PLANET!
YES...

...AND ONCE WE HAVE FREED THEM OF THE YOKE OF PEACE, THEY WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT! WE'LL HAVE TO SHAKE THEM UP A BIT!

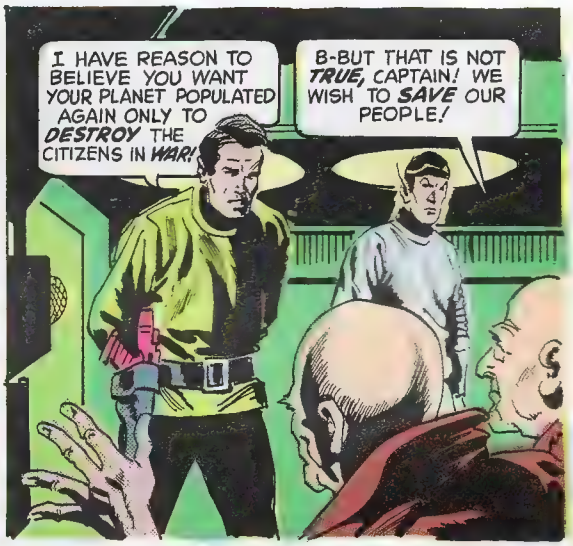

AND AS THE TWIN SUPREMES APPEAR ON THE SCREEN AGAIN...
WHAT NEWS? CAN YOU HELP US?
ER... VERY WELL, CAPTAIN!
MEET US ABOARD OUR SHIP IN ONE HOUR! THIS IS URGENT! BE THERE!


AN HOUR LATER, THE CAPTAIN AND HIS MEN ARE BACK ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
THIS IS IT... A SUMMIT MEETING IN SPACE!



BUT IF WE DO *NOT* AID THEM WE ARE, TECHNICALLY, *KILLING* THEM!
THAT LOGIC OF YOURS CAN BE DISTURBING AT TIMES, MR. SPOCK! *OPEN THE AIR LOCKS!*

THEN, A GRIM-FACED CAPTAIN CONFRONTS THE TWIN SUPREMES...
TAKE SEATS! I WILL BE ABRUPT AND TO THE POINT! I ACCUSE YOU OF *DECEPTION*...


I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOU WANT YOUR PLANET POPULATED AGAIN ONLY TO *DESTROY* THE CITIZENS IN *WAR!*
B-BUT THAT IS NOT *TRUE,* CAPTAIN! WE WISH TO *SAVE* OUR PEOPLE!

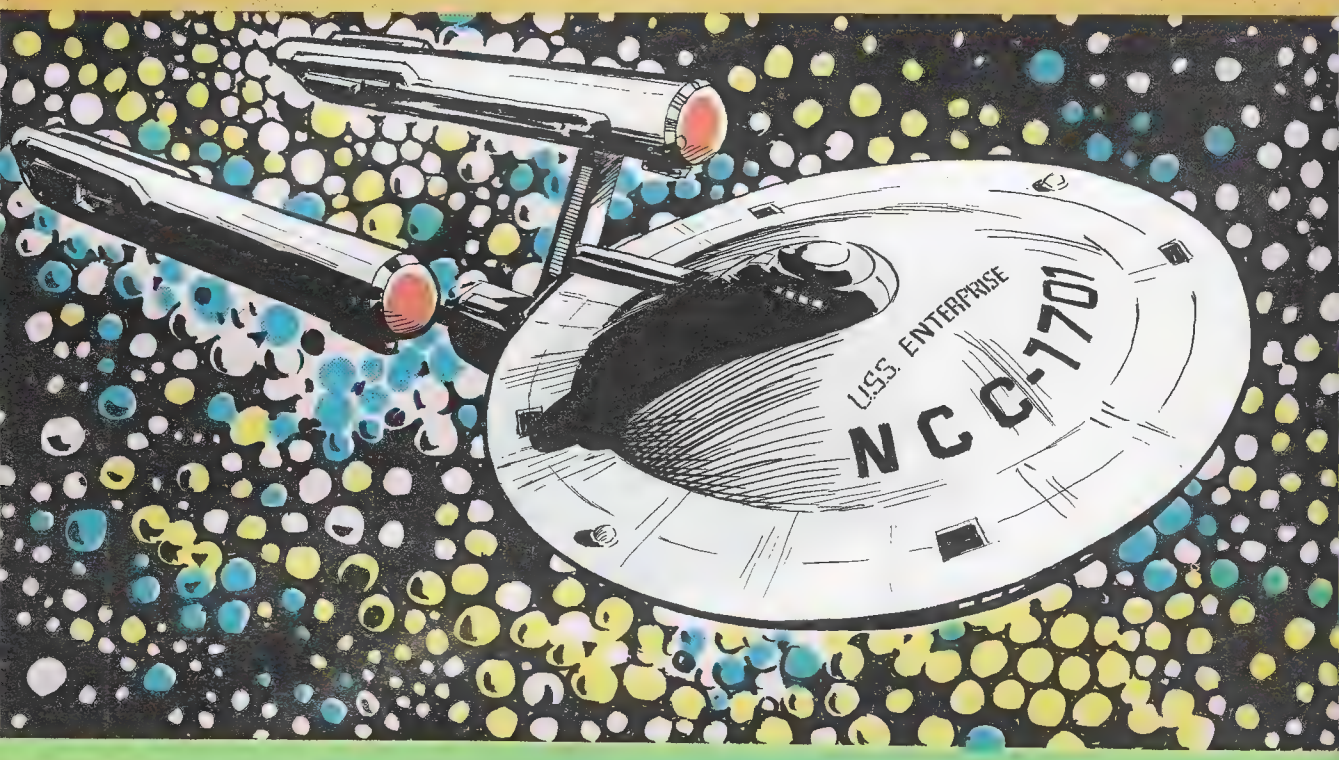
YOU *LIE!* THESE PHOTOS *PROVE* YOU HAVE BEEN WARRING AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR HALF A CENTURY!
CAPTAIN! THEY ARE REACHING FOR WEAPONS!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

ENTERPRISE EXAMINATION

To become a crewman of the starship Enterprise *you must have, as well as the necessary scientific training, a good knowledge of space history. See if you would qualify by completing this simple quiz.*

1. Do galaxies evolve?
2. Is there a limit to the universe?
3. What is the horsehead nebula?
4. How thick are the rings of Saturn?
5. How many moons has Saturn?
6. How big is the Sun?
7. Could the earth once have had more than one moon?
8. Is it possible to travel at the speed of light?
9. Which nation was the first to recover one of its satellites?
10. What was the major difficulty involved in the construction of the Mount Palomar Observatory?



ANSWERS:

1. It is thought that they have evolved. Powerful telescopes show that galaxies follow a definite pattern—the ones containing many old stars have elliptical shapes, while new star galaxies have irregular shapes. The older they get the more they assume a pattern.

2. No; as far as is known the universe has no ending. Indeed, it is thought to be expanding at a tremendous speed.

3. It is a cloud of gas in deep space which has the shape of a horse's head.

4. They are ten miles thick, but are 42,000 miles across.

5. Ten in all.

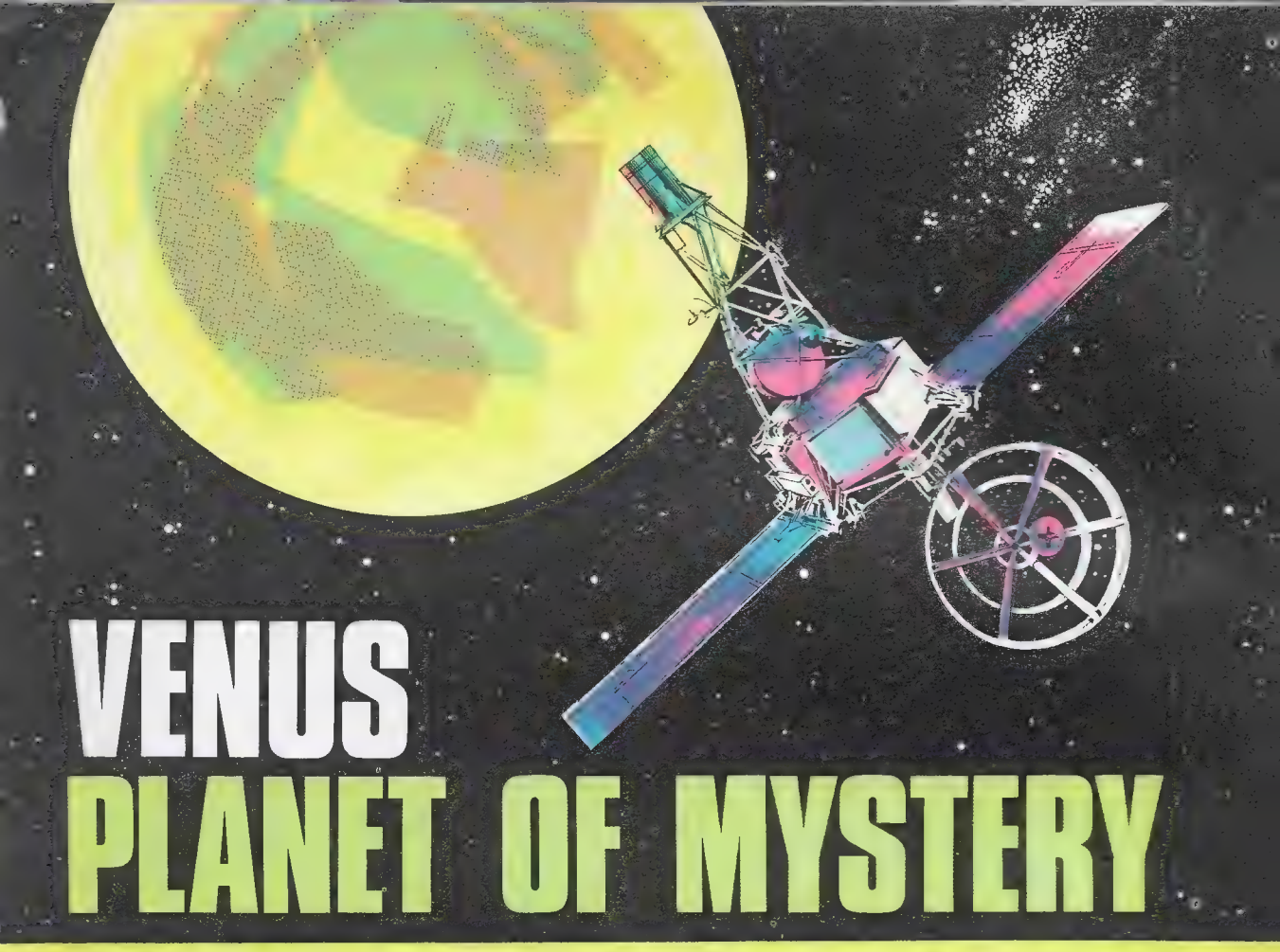
6. Its diameter is 109 times that of the earth, and its mass is 330,000 times greater.

7. It is possible. It was once thought that one or more of these moons drew near to the earth and exerted an enormous pull on the oceans—hence the deep tide-mark indentations on some mountain ranges, and the salty waters of Lake Titicaca high in the South American mountains.

8. Not as yet, but engines could be developed—such as the photon engine which utilises grains of light—which could travel at nearly 186,000 miles per second.

9. The Americans when they recovered Discoverer XIII off Hawaii.

10. Casting the mirror for the telescope. Two years and 225,000 dollars were expended before a suitable casting was made, and then nearly a year of careful cooling followed.



VENUS
PLANET OF MYSTERY

With all the excitement of the first moon landing, and the attempts to discover more about life on Mars, the various probes to the planet Venus have tended to become overshadowed, but they produced much interesting and previously unknown information about this "planet of mystery".

THE MYSTERY PLANET

This was the name given to Venus by the astronomers of olden times who, centuries before the first probe to this planet, put forth many strange theories about it.

Venus, like all the other planets, depends on the sun for light, but occasionally the dark side of Venus seemed to shine with a peculiar light of its own. This caused a certain eighteenth-century German astrologer to call it the Ashen Light and to say, quite seriously at that time, that this was probably a celebration bonfire lit by the inhabitants of Venus.

Other equally strange stories were spread from time to time, and the myth grew up that Venus was either a pleasant and fertile green land, or else was merely covered with a number of oceans.

VENUS AND MARINER PROBES

Although some elementary attempts had been made previously to obtain scientific proof as to the real conditions on Venus, it was not until a series of probes, starting with the Russians' Venus I in 1961, and continuing a year later with the Mariner I of the Americans' space research project, that fact took over from fantasy.

Although the early Russian attempt and its American counterpart failed, Mariner II succeeded and yielded much valuable information.

FACT OUT OF FANTASY

As a result of this, and of later American and Russian probes, old theories were completely disproved. There was no green land with several oceans, inhabited by happy people given to merrymaking. Instead we now have definite proof that Venus consists of a dark, barren landscape, without a drop of water, with no magnetic field at all, and without any life. The temperature—which at first was thought to be as high as 800 °F.—is on further exploration never lower than 500 °F. . . . a fact which bodes ill for anyone seeking a new home on Venus.

It takes Venus 225 days to revolve around the sun, and it has also recently been discovered that it takes about 243 days to rotate on its own axis, producing the rather surprising fact that a Venus day is longer than a Venus year.

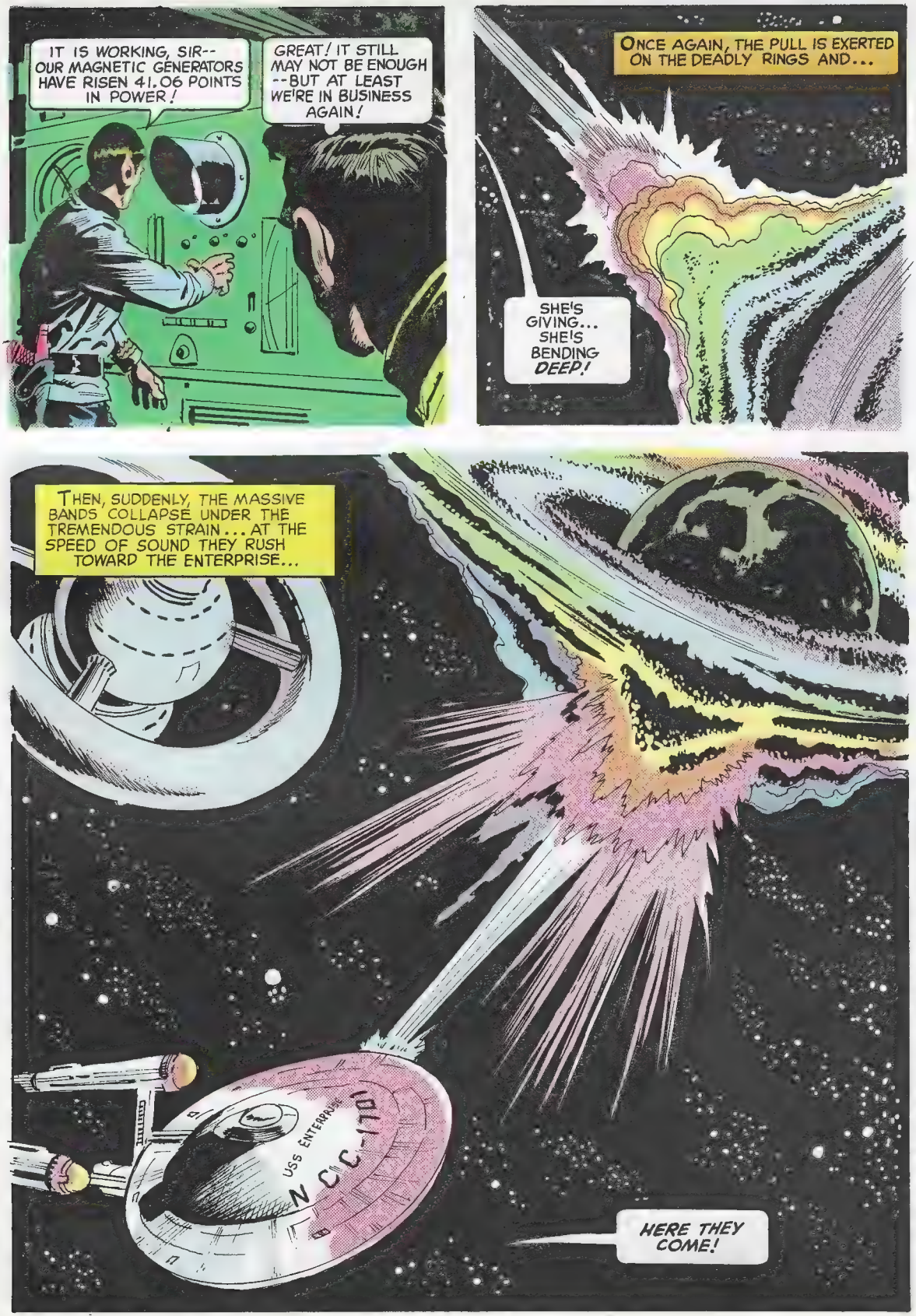
Will man succeed in colonising Venus after a successful manned landing, as was once envisaged . . . will he be able to solve the many problems to be overcome before this may be achieved . . . or will Venus always remain a planet of mystery? Only time will tell!

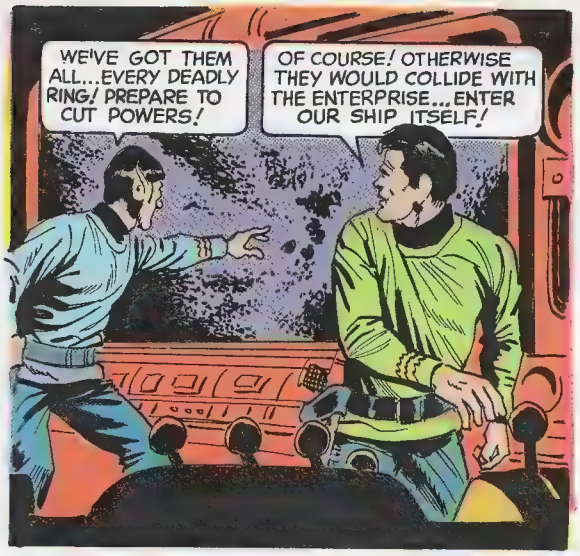
STAR TREK
PART II
The GHOST PLANET
AS TWIN SUPREMES OF THE PLANET NUMERO UNO ENTER THE ENTERPRISE, KIRK CONFRONTS THEM WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE AT WAR AND...
INDEED, THEY ARE INSTINCTIVELY BRACED TO DO BATTLE! THE MOMENT YOU SHOWED THEM THE PHOTOGRAPHS THEIR HANDS FLEW TO THEIR WEAPONS, CAPTAIN KIRK!
CEASE! I-I WILL NOT RESIST FURTHER!
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO CHARACTERS! YOU WERE BATTLING EACH OTHER, WEREN'T YOU? EACH FIGHTING FOR CONTROL OF PLANET NUMERO UNO!
Y-YES...

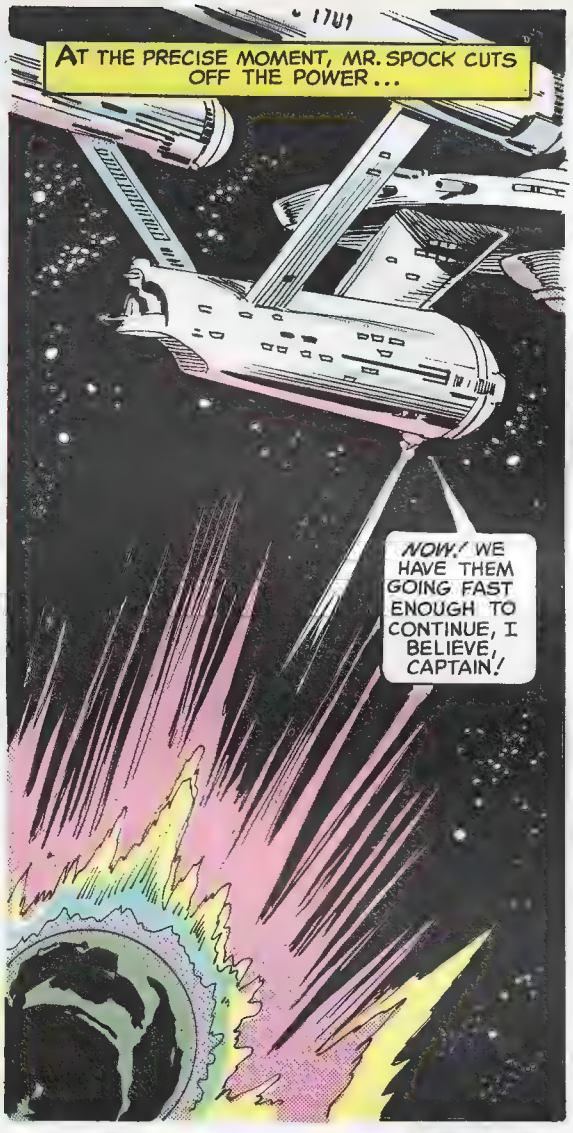
AND THEN THE DOOM RINGS CAME AND YOU HAD TO STOP THE WAR TO SAVE BOTH YOUR NECKS?
WE... CAN NOT DENY THE FACTS!
HERE'S ANOTHER FACT! OUR JOB IS TO BRING PEACE TO THE GALAXIES! WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO LET YOUR CIVILIZATION DIE OUT!
NO... NO!
WHY NOT? IF WE MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO RETURN FROM THE SATELLITES YOU'LL JUST SLAUGHTER YOURSELVES ANYWAY!
BUT WE CANNOT DO THAT! THERE ARE NO WEAPONS LEFT!
WHAT FOOLS DO YOU THINK WE ARE? YOU'LL MAKE MORE WAR! NO... YOU REMAIN ON YOUR DYING SATELLITES!
WAIT! I HAVE A PLAN...
...LEAVE VISUAL DETECTORS OVER OUR MANUFACTURING AREAS! FROM SPACE YOU CAN OBSERVE US FOR YEARS! IF WE START TO BUILD AGAIN YOU CAN DESTROY US BY TIME DEVICES LEFT BEHIND!

WELL, SPOCK...
IT IS CONSTRUCTIVELY PUT! OUR WORK IS TO HELP PLANETS— NOT WATCH THEM DIE!
VERY WELL! RETURN TO YOUR SATELLITES AT ONCE! THE ENTERPRISE HAS WORK TO DO! YOU WILL BE INFORMED!
SPOCK..!
WITHIN THE LAB ROOM OF THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE KIRK AND SPOCK STUDY THE PROBLEM...
IF THE FULL FORCE OF OUR MAGNETIC GENERATORS CAN MAKE A CRACK IN ONE SECTION OF THE RINGS, BEND IT SHARPLY ENOUGH...
...WE MAY BE ABLE TO PULL ALL THE DOOM RINGS THROUGH IT INTO SPACE!
RIGHT, MR. SPOCK! THAT'S OUR ONLY SHOT! LET'S GO!
FIVE MINUTES LATER, THE FULL FORCE OF THE ENTERPRISE'S MAGNETIC GENERATORS ARE PROPELLED DOWNWARD...

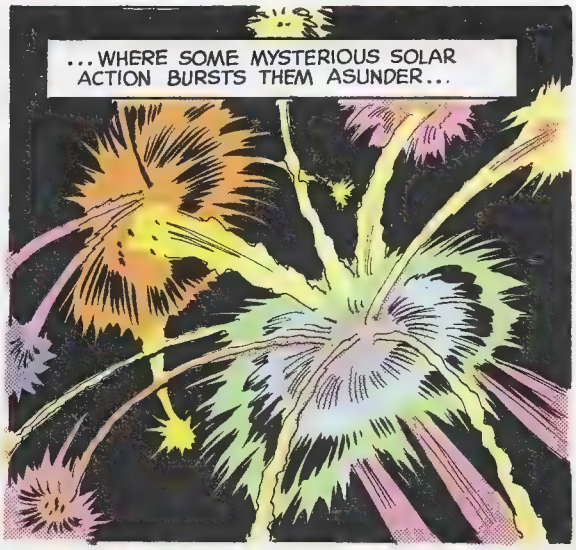
A SECTION OF THE COPPER-FILLED RINGS BEND AS THE RAYS HIT...
BUT NOT STRONG ENOUGH! KEEP TRYING!
WE'RE GETTING A STRONG POSITIVE REACTION, CAPTAIN!
MINUTE AFTER MINUTE, THE POWERFUL MAGNETIC FORCE DRAWS UPON THE RINGS...
WE'VE FAILED! OUR MAGNETIC GENERATORS ARE BEING WEAKENED... FURTHER ATTEMPT IS USELESS!
PERHAPS THERE IS ANOTHER MEANS, CAPTAIN!
IF WE DREW THE POWER OF THE SATELLITES' MAGNETIC FIELD INTO OUR GENERATORS, THE ADDED POWER MIGHT...
YOU'VE HIT IT, MR. SPOCK! COMMENCE OPERATION!
QUICKLY, ELECTRONIC "RIFLES" ARE AIMED AT THE MAGNETIC FIELD OF THE TWIN SATELLITES...
IT'S WORKING, MR. SPOCK! WE'RE SUCKING IN THE MAGNETIC FIELDS!

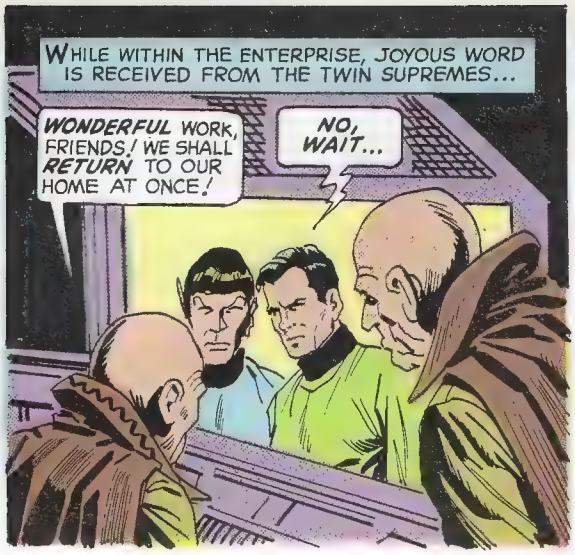

IT IS WORKING, SIR--OUR MAGNETIC GENERATORS HAVE RISEN 41.06 POINTS IN POWER!
GREAT! IT STILL MAY NOT BE ENOUGH --BUT AT LEAST WE'RE IN BUSINESS AGAIN!
ONCE AGAIN, THE PULL IS EXERTED ON THE DEADLY RINGS AND...
SHE'S GIVING... SHE'S BENDING DEEP!
THEN, SUDDENLY, THE MASSIVE BANDS COLLAPSE UNDER THE TREMENDOUS STRAIN... AT THE SPEED OF SOUND THEY RUSH TOWARD THE ENTERPRISE...
USS ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701
HERE THEY COME!


WE'VE GOT THEM ALL...EVERY DEADLY RING! PREPARE TO CUT POWERS!
OF COURSE! OTHERWISE THEY WOULD COLLIDE WITH THE ENTERPRISE...ENTER OUR SHIP ITSELF!


AT THE PRECISE MOMENT, MR. SPOCK CUTS OFF THE POWER...
NOW! WE HAVE THEM GOING FAST ENOUGH TO CONTINUE, I BELIEVE, CAPTAIN!

OUT INTO DEEP SPACE THE NOW CONVULSING BEAMS STREAK...


...WHERE SOME MYSTERIOUS SOLAR ACTION BURSTS THEM ASUNDER...


WHILE WITHIN THE ENTERPRISE, JOYOUS WORD IS RECEIVED FROM THE TWIN SUPREMES...
WONDERFUL WORK, FRIENDS! WE SHALL RETURN TO OUR HOME AT ONCE!
NO, WAIT...

THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A DANGEROUS COPPER CONTENT DISCHARGED DOWN FROM THE REACTION! WE'LL TEST THE AREA FIRST!
I SHALL BRING THE TEST GEAR TO THE TRANSPORTING CHAMBER!

SOON AFTER...
IF THERE ARE SIGNS OF COPPER PENETRATION IT MAY BE YEARS BEFORE THEY CAN RETURN, MR. SPOCK!
WE SHALL SOON KNOW, CAPTAIN! THIS AREA HERE WAS MOST VULNERABLE!

SUDDENLY, A GEIGER COUNTER CLICKS...
COPPER RADIATION, MR. SPOCK?
NO, CAPTAIN!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

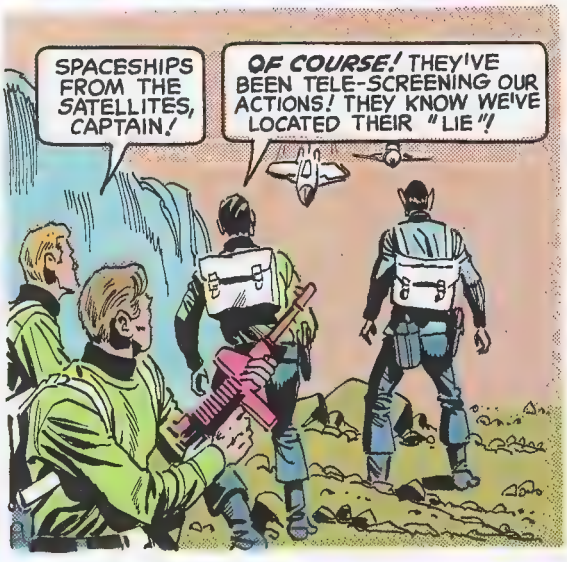
...ATOMIC RADIATION, SIR--COMING FROM THAT AREA!

MEANWHILE, ON ONE OF THE MAN-MADE SATELLITES TWO SPACEMEN OBSERVE A SCANNER WITH CONCERN...
I... BELIEVE THEY HAVE LOCATED THE "NEST"!
GAR! LET US PRAY NOT!
BUT CAPTAIN KIRK AND MR. SPOCK HAVE CERTAINLY FOUND SOMETHING...
MUCH STRONGER... FROM WITHIN THE HILL!
THERE'S A CREVICE LEADING INSIDE THAT HILL! HURRY!
SLIPPING THROUGH THE OPENING, THE PAIR GAPE IN SHOCK AS...
INSTRUMENTS OF WAR, CAPTAIN!
B-BUT HOW ... WHY?
THEN, AS THEY ENTER A VAST CAVERN...
THE PROPERTY OF THE TWIN SUPREMES... SEPARATED! GREAT SPACE GHOSTS! THEY CACHED THEIR WEAPONS FOR FUTURE USE!
PROPERTY JUSTIN II
CLICK
CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK
CLICK CLICK
CLICK
CLICK CLICK
CLICK
PROPERTY JUSTIN 1
THE RADIATION COUNT IS CLIMBING RAPIDLY!

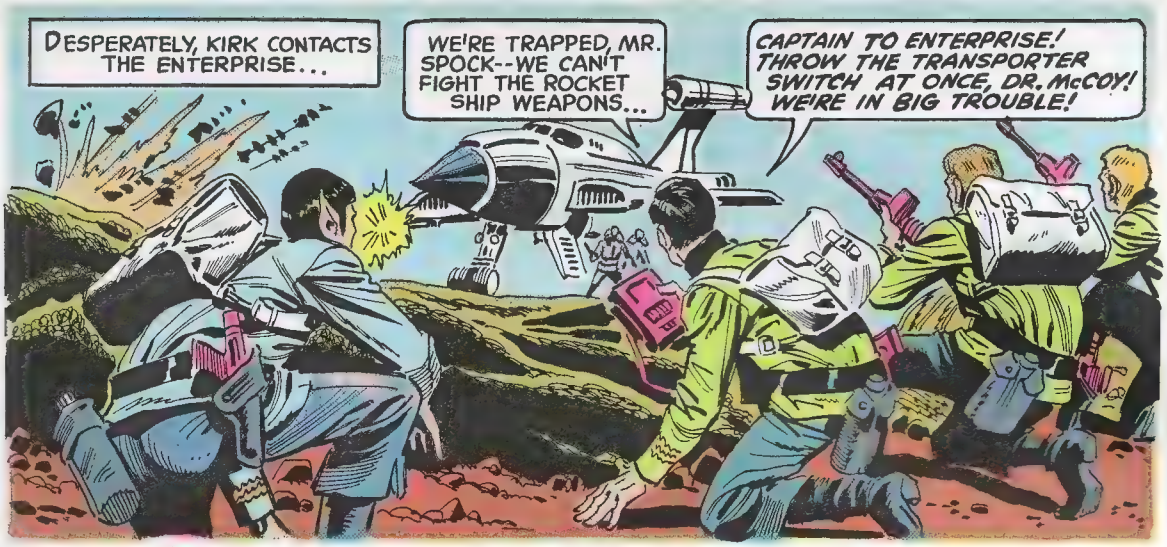
URANIUM! OBVIOUSLY THEY WERE ON THE VERGE OF ATOMIC WARFARE BEFORE THEY HAD TO FLEE!
THE LYING SPACE SCUM! AND THEY SWORE TO US THERE WERE NO WEAPONS LEFT!

STRANGE! A PLANET ADVANCED ENOUGH TO MAKE ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES WITHOUT SIMPLE ATOMIC BOMB KNOWLEDGE!
I PREFER TO BELIEVE AN ATOMIC TRUCE HAD JUST BEEN BROKEN, CAPTAIN!

OTHERWISE THEY WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEMSELVES LONG AGO!
MR. SPOCK! TROUBLE IN THE SKY!


SPACESHIPS FROM THE SATELLITES, CAPTAIN!
OF COURSE! THEY'VE BEEN TELE-SCREENING OUR ACTIONS! THEY KNOW WE'VE LOCATED THEIR "LIE"!

AND THEY INTEND TO DISPOSE OF US NOW THAT THE DOOM RINGS ARE GONE!


DESPERATELY, KIRK CONTACTS THE ENTERPRISE...
WE'RE TRAPPED, MR. SPOCK--WE CAN'T FIGHT THE ROCKET SHIP WEAPONS...
CAPTAIN TO ENTERPRISE! THROW THE TRANSPORTER SWITCH AT ONCE, DR. McCOY! WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!

BUT A MOMENT LATER...
I... CAN'T GET THROUGH, SIR! THE TRANSPORTER IS JAMMED SOMEHOW!
WE'VE HAD IT, SPOCK... THEIR SHIP'S ELECTRONIC FIELD HAS US STYMIED!

FACE DEATH LIKE MEN, STRANGERS FROM SPACE! YOU CANNOT HIDE!
SIR! I HAVE A THOUGHT...QUICKLY ...I MUST SPEAK TO THE SHIP! NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! TRY TO STALL THEM A MOMENT!

WHAT DOGS OF SPACE DESTROY THOSE WHO SAVE THEM, JUSTINS!
OF SUCH TRICKS ARE CONQUERORS MADE, KIRK! HA, HA!

SUDDENLY...
SPOCK??
HOLD FIRE! SHOOT AND YOU DESTROY YOURSELVES!

THE VISITOR SEEKS TO BLUFF US, JUSTIN II!
IT WILL NOT SAVE HIS LIFE, JUSTIN I!
WHAT I SAY CAN MOST CERTAINLY SAVE YOURS...

...OBSERVE FOR YOURSELVES... THERE IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE YOUR PLANET!

ABRUPTLY THE PAIR GAPE IN AWE AS THEY LOOK SPACEWARD...
T-THE RAINBOW BANDS W-WITH COPPER DEATH... THEY HAVE RETURNED!
B-BUT HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? WE SAW THEM DESTROYED IN DEEP SPACE!

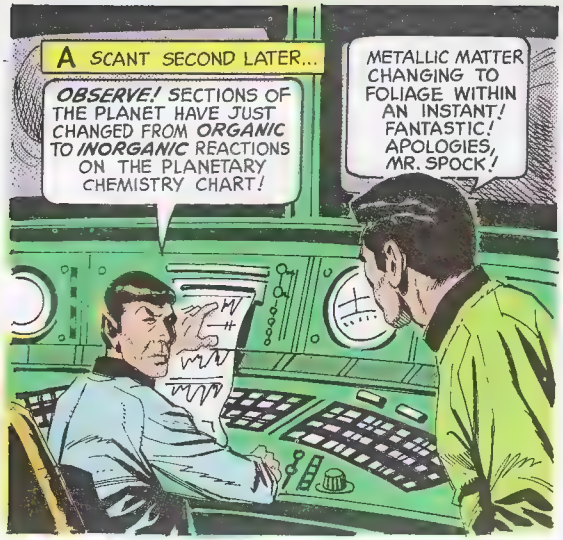
WH-WHAT IN THUNDER?
WHILE DESTROYING THE BANDS WE SOLVED THEIR SECRET! AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE WE CAN ENCIRCLE YOUR PLANET AGAIN WITH THEM!

NOW! EITHER DROP YOUR GUNS OR FIRE! IF WE DIE YOUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION PERISHES!
NO...NO! YOU MAY GO FREE! JUST TAKE YOUR DEADLY BANDS WITH YOU!

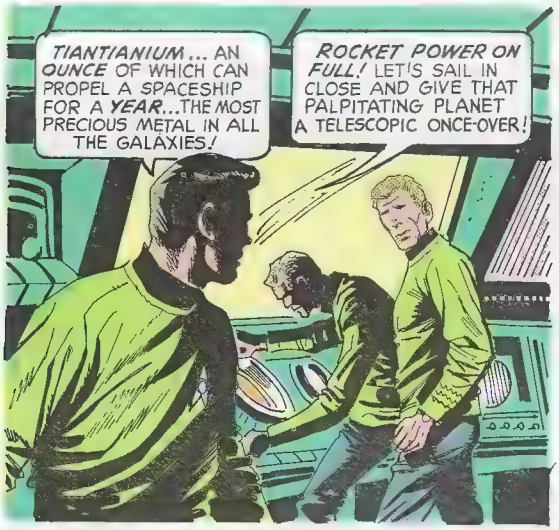
MUST CLEAR THE ELECTRONIC FIELD FOR TRANSPORTING!
VERY WELL, JUSTINS, WE WILL ELIMINATE THE BANDS! BUT FIRST YOUR CRAFT MUST BE DISABLED TO KEEP YOU HERE!
HOWEVER SPOCK DID IT, I'D BEST FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIM!
AND THEN YOUR SECRET WAR SUPPLIES MUST BE DESTROYED!
WE SHALL LEAVE A DETECTION DEVICE IN SPACE! SHOULD YOU WAR AGAIN THE DEATH BANDS RETURN FOREVER!
WHEW! SPOCK REALLY PULLED A RABBIT OUT OF THE HAT THIS TIME!
AND LATER...
THEY WERE TERRIFIED... THEY'LL CERTAINLY NEVER WAR AGAIN! BUT... HOW DID YOU RECREATE THOSE BANDS, SPOCK?
A MERE VISION, CAPTAIN KIRK! I HAD DR. McCOY PLAY THE FILMS WE MADE OF THE OPERATION BACK INTO THEIR ATMOSPHERE!
...THEY WERE SEEING A REFLECTION... A RAINBOW IN THE SKY! QUITE ELEMENTARY, REALLY!
WELL, THERE WAS QUITE A POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF YOUR RAINBOW, SPOCK! WE'VE STOPPED A WAR AND SAVED A CIVILIZATION ON THIS MISSION!

STAR TREK
THE PERIL OF PLANET QUICK CHANGE
PART I - THE CREATURES OF LIGHT
SPOCK! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR MUMBO JUMBO THEORIES! LOOK AT THAT—TREES SPROUTING FROM SAND...MOUNTAINS RISING! NOBODY OR ANYTHING CAN CALM THIS PLANET DOWN! I'M ORDERING AN IMMEDIATE TELE-PORTATION BACK TO THE ENTERPRISE!
IT WAS A WORLD IN DEEP SPACE THAT EVEN THE GALAXY-WISE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE HAD NEVER DREAMED OF--A PLANET THAT CONVULSED, SPROUTED FOLIAGE, MOUNTAINS AND WATER LIKE A LIVING THING! AND ONLY MR. SPOCK COULD HOPE TO SAVE THIS ALIEN GLOBE THAT HAD THE SPACE PIONEERS TRAPPED UPON IT!
REMAIN CALM, CAPTAIN KIRK! I HAVE MY PLAN NEARLY COMPLETED! WE SHALL CONQUER THIS PLANET'S PROBLEMS!

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE, 21:06.7-- THE ENTERPRISE WAS CRUISING THROUGH GALAXY TELPHA Z... EXPEDITION OPERATIONS WERE NORMAL... UNTIL MR. SPOCK'S RED ALERT BUTTON FLASHED IN MAIN CONTROL...
MR. SPOCK MUST HAVE FOUND SOME ACTION ON HIS PLANET SURVEILLANCE PANEL! LET'S TAKE A LOOK-SEE!
WHAT'S UP, SPOCK? THAT LITTLE PLANET SEEMS TO BE A-OKAY I SEE NOTHING UNUSUAL!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THOSE NEEDLES! THAT PLANET IS CHANGING ITS CHEMISTRY EVERY FIVE OR TEN MINUTES!
300,000 MILES AWAY, THE PLANET METAMORPHA CONVULSES IN SPACE AS CAPTAIN KIRK, LEADER OF THE ENTERPRISE SPACE PIONEERS, SCOFFS AT MR. SPOCK'S STATEMENT...
OH, COME NOW, SPOCK! CHECK OUT YOUR INSTRUMENTS! THERE HAS TO BE A MAL-FUNCTION IN THE CONNECTIONS... SUCH THINGS JUST DON'T HAPPEN!
THEY ARE HAPPENING NOW, CAPTAIN KIRK! I'VE DOUBLE CHECKED EVERY PLANETARY SENSORY PICK-UP UNIT! WE'RE IN EXCELLENT WORKING CONDITION!


A SCANT SECOND LATER...
OBSERVE! SECTIONS OF THE PLANET HAVE JUST CHANGED FROM ORGANIC TO INORGANIC REACTIONS ON THE PLANETARY CHEMISTRY CHART!
METALLIC MATTER CHANGING TO FOLIAGE WITHIN AN INSTANT! FANTASTIC! APOLOGIES, MR. SPOCK!

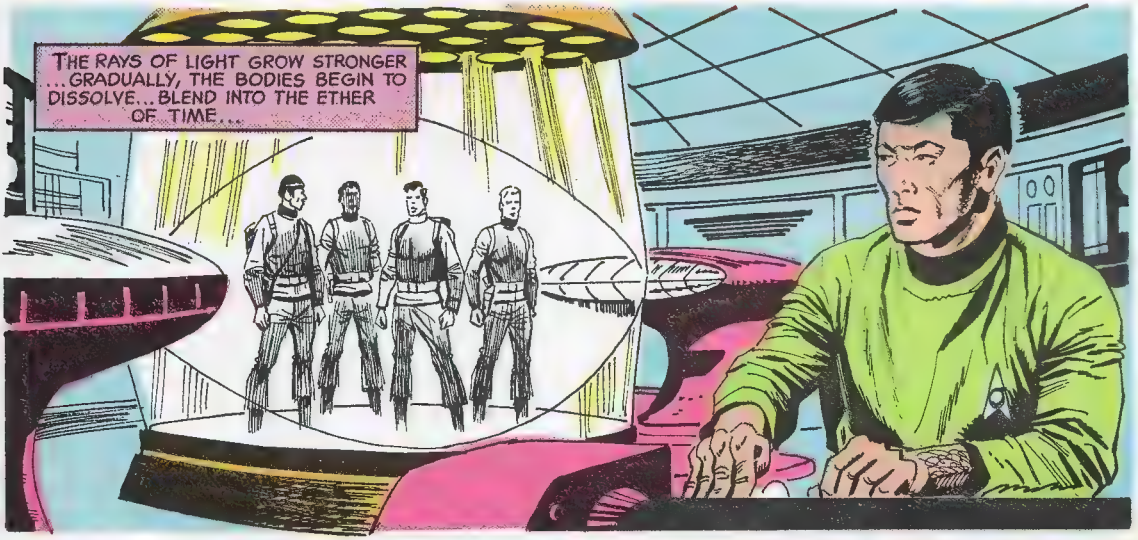
...I GUESS SUCH THINGS DO HAPPEN!
THERE IS ANOTHER VITAL FACTOR INVOLVED IN THE PHENOMENON, CAPTAIN! I HAVE DISCOVERED TRACES OF TIANTIANIUM AMID THE METALLIC RECORDINGS!

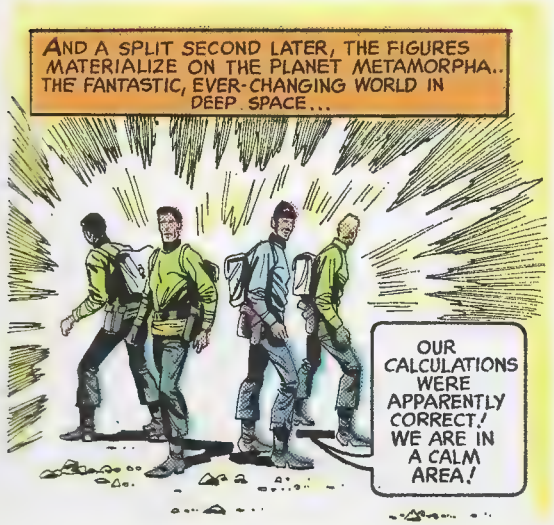

TIANTIANIUM... AN OUNCE OF WHICH CAN PROPEL A SPACESHIP FOR A YEAR...THE MOST PRECIOUS METAL IN ALL THE GALAXIES!
ROCKET POWER ON FULL! LET'S SAIL IN CLOSE AND GIVE THAT PALPITATING PLANET A TELESCOPIC ONCE-OVER!

SHORTLY, THE SIGHT SEEN THROUGH THE POWERFUL ENTERPRISE SCOPES IS AWESOME...
CASCADES OF WATER SUDDENLY BURSTING UP IN THE NORTH QUADRANT!
AND IN THE SOUTH... A FOREST SPROUTING UP FROM DESERT SAND!

LET'S MOVE! WE'LL TELEPORT DOWN THERE WITH TWO CREW MEMBERS AND LET SCOTTY HANDLE THE SHIP UPSTAIRS HERE!
DANGEROUS AS IT IS, THE PRESENCE OF THAT 7/, METAL MAKES THE RISK WORTH TAKING!

SHORTLY, AS BEAMS ILLUMINATE THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER...
THE UPHEAVALS ARE EXTENSIVE OVER THE ENTIRE PLANET, CAPTAIN —BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF EMPTY AREAS WE MIGHT BE SAFE IN!
EXACTLY MY REASONING FOR THE MISSION, MR. SPOCK!


THE RAYS OF LIGHT GROW STRONGER ...GRADUALLY, THE BODIES BEGIN TO DISSOLVE...BLEND INTO THE ETHER OF TIME...


AND A SPLIT SECOND LATER, THE FIGURES MATERIALIZE ON THE PLANET METAMORPHA.. THE FANTASTIC, EVER-CHANGING WORLD IN DEEP SPACE...
OUR CALCULATIONS WERE APPARENTLY CORRECT! WE ARE IN A CALM AREA!

BUT SCARCELY ARE THE WORDS OUT OF MR. SPOCK'S MOUTH WHEN...
GR-GREAT GALLOPING GALAXIES--LOOK!
SPECULATION ON TOUCHDOWN POINT INCORRECT--WE HAVE BECOME A CRITICAL AREA!

THE SNUB OF A ROCK MASS THRUSTS UPWARD FROM THE EARTH'S CRUST...
WH-WHAT IN BLAZING BLUE COMETS IS *THAT?*
I BELIEVE IT IS A *PEAK*, DR. McCOY... THE TOP OF A...

...*MOUNTAIN!*

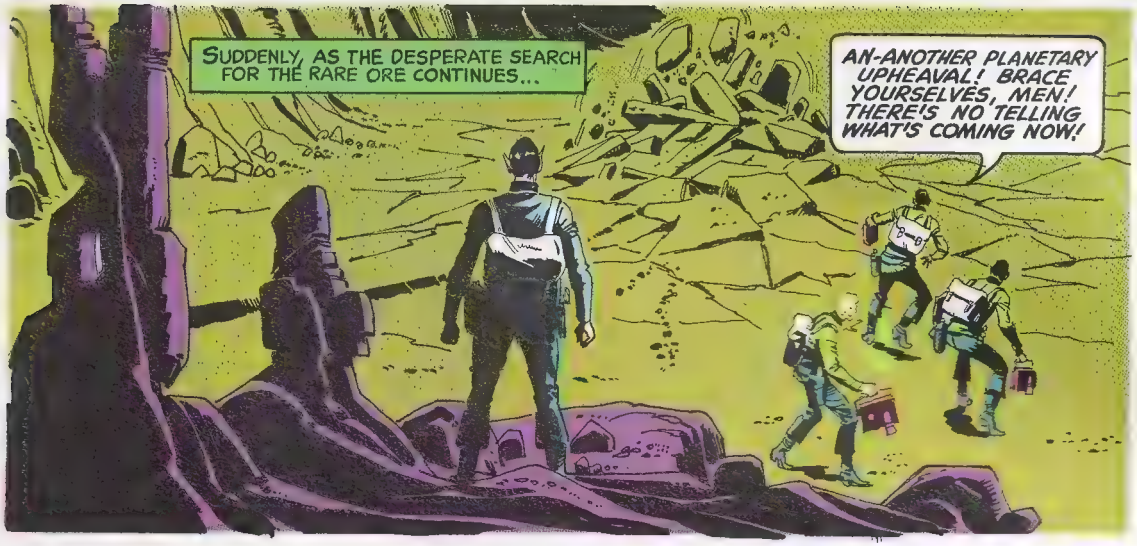
SUDDENLY, THE CATACLYSMIC UPHEAVAL CEASES AND...
LOOK THERE...THE MOUNTAIN'S UPHEAVAL DISLODGED WHAT APPEARS TO BE *MAN-MADE* OBJECTS!

YES, CAPTAIN....APPARENTLY RUINS FROM A LONG-DEAD ALIEN CIVILIZATION!
NO WONDER THEY ARE *LONG DEAD*... TRYING TO EXIST ON THIS UNSTABLE PLANET!

ABRUPTLY, A STRANGE SOUND FILLS THE AIR...
BLOBS OF LIGHT EMERGING FROM THE RUINS!

THE LIGHT FORMS SWIRL TOWARD THE GROUP... LIKE INTELLIGENCE-DIRECTED THINGS THEY HOME IN ON KIRK AND ONE OF THE CREW...
TH-THEY'RE ATTACKING!
I'LL BLAST THEM WITH MY PHASER!
BUT THE BIZARRE ILLUMINATED FORMS, IMMUNE TO THE PHASER RAY, BOUNCE OFF OF THE PAIR...
THE PHASER SHOTS DIDN'T AFFECT THEM... BUT THEY'RE RETREATING FROM THE CAPTAIN AND CREWMAN JOHNSON! STRANGE...?
ZAP! ZAP!
THE ALIEN BLOBS OF LIGHT REGROUP ... AND AGAIN ATTACK...
BUT ONCE AGAIN, THE SIX GLOWING FORMS SHY AWAY...
THEY'RE LEAVING McCOY...NOW THEY'RE HEADING FOR SPOCK! WHAT ARE THEY AFTER? WHAT CAN THEY WANT?

LIKE A CLUSTER OF GLOWING, BODYLESS INSECTS, THE FORMS DESCEND UPON MR. SPOCK... ROUND AND ROUND THEY SWIRL...
...BUT I SEEM TO BE FRIGHTENING THEM OFF!
TH-THERE IS NO BODY TO THEM...
THEN ...
THEY'RE GONE!
VANISHED! APPARENTLY DISSIPATED INTO THE ALIEN ATMOSPHERE!
(WHEW!) WELL, THAT'S THAT! NOW LET'S GET ON WITH LOCATING THAT TI ORE AND SHOVE OFF BEFORE THIS PLANET DOES ANOTHER FLIP-FLOP!
FOR AN HOUR, THE GROUP COVERS THE TERRAIN WITH DELICATE SPACE-ORE COUNTERS...
COME ON, MR. SPOCK--GIVE US A HAND! WE WANT TO GET THIS JOB OVER FAST!
I AM MAKING AN ANALYSIS OF THE EARTH CHEMISTRY, CAPTAIN KIRK!


SUDDENLY, AS THE DESPERATE SEARCH FOR THE RARE ORE CONTINUES...
AN-ANOTHER PLANETARY UPHEAVAL! BRACE YOURSELVES, MEN! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'S COMING NOW!

THEN, A GEYSER OF WATER SPEWS INTO THE AIR...
WATER! THE ARID AREA IS TURNING INTO WATER!
MAKE FOR THE CLIFFSIDE WITH SPOCK! MOVE IT!

BUT THE ONRUSH OF WATER IS TOO RAPID.., SWIRLING RAPIDS ENTRAP THE GROUP..
S-SWIM!.. FIGHT THE CURRENT...WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE LEDGE!
REMAIN CALM, MY FRIENDS! YOU WILL BE SAVED!

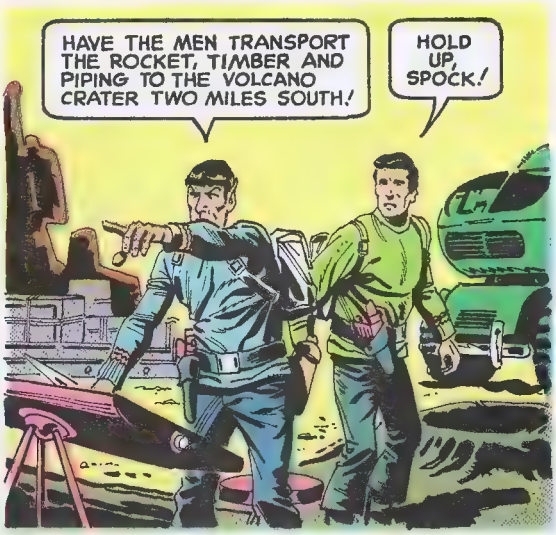
CAPTAIN KIRK--- CLUTCH THE ROPE! INSTRUCT THE OTHERS TO MAKE A LIFE-CHAIN OF THEIR BODIES BY CLUTCHING YOURS!
G-GOOD THINKING! YOU HEARD HIM, MEN! GRAB HOLD OF ME!
THE LIFE-CHAIN IS FORMED...
HOLD ON TIGHT! I WILL PULL YOU FROM THE WATERS!
GREAT COMETS! WH-WHERE IS SPOCK GETTING THE STRENGTH? H-HE'S PULLING US ALL UP!
FINALLY, ATOP THE LEDGE...
HOW IN THUNDER DID YOU MANAGE IT, MR. SPOCK? -- TOGETHER WE WEIGHED NEARLY EIGHT HUNDRED POUNDS!
EMERGENCY MEASURES OFTEN GIVE ONE EXTRA STRENGTH, CAPTAIN KIRK-- THE ADRENALIN WAS POURING THROUGH MY BODY RAPIDLY!
BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR IDLE TALK! I HAVE CALCULATED A MEANS TO EXTRACT THE TI ORE...BUT FIRST WE MUST REGULATE THE PLANET --BRING IT BACK TO NORMAL!
BRING IT BACK TO NORMAL?

PRECISELY! I HAVE WORKED OUT A THEORY THAT WILL SUCCEED! THESE ARE THE MATERIALS I WILL NEED TELEPORTED DOWN FROM THE ENTERPRISE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SPOCK... HE ACTED DAZED ...ALMOST AS IF HE WERE MOVING MECHANICALLY!

BUT PERHAPS IT'S JUST BECAUSE HE'S CONCENTRATING SO INTENSELY ON OUR PROBLEM!
ALL RIGHT! SHOOT, MR. SPOCK!
ONE ATOMIC ROCKET... FOUR STEEL GIRDERS...

AND WHEN THE MATERIALS HAVE BEEN TELEPORTED DOWN...
DR. McCOY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ALL THIS? DOES MR. SPOCK REALLY KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING?
HE ALWAYS HAS BEFORE, JOHNSON! BUT... I ADMIT HE'S GOT ME A BIT PUZZLED *THIS* TIME!

MR. SPOCK! JUST WHAT *IS* THIS BLUEPRINT YOU ARE DRAFTING?
DO NOT DISTURB ME, CAPTAIN!

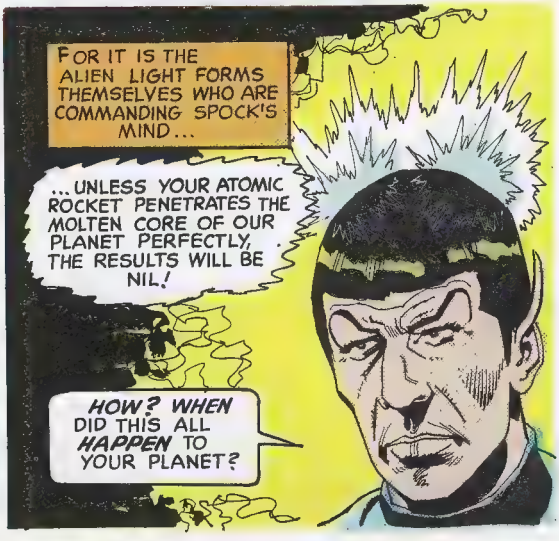

HAVE THE MEN TRANSPORT THE ROCKET, TIMBER AND PIPING TO THE VOLCANO CRATER TWO MILES SOUTH!
HOLD UP, SPOCK!

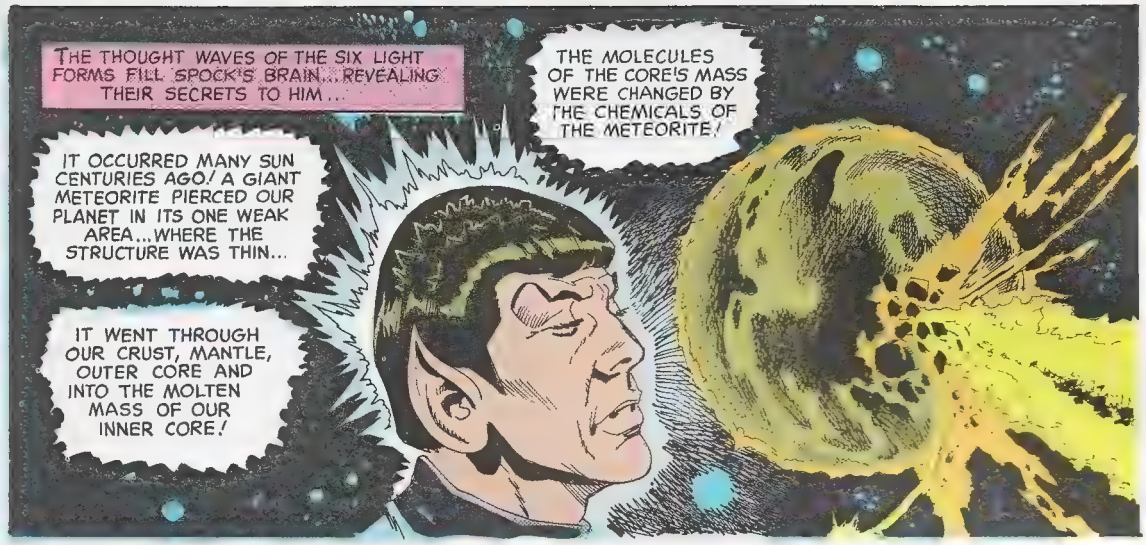
JUST HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE IS A VOLCANIC CRATER BACK THERE?
I KNOW IT IS THERE! DO NOT ASK ME ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS IF YOU WISH TO GET THE TI ORE... AND SURVIVE! I WILL JOIN YOU SHORTLY!

PERPLEXED, CAPTAIN KIRK FOLLOWS SPOCK'S DIRECTIONS...
TRANSPORT THE EQUIPMENT DUE SOUTH, MEN!
AS HIS SUPERIOR, I COULD STEP ON SPOCK...BUT PERHAPS HIS VULCAN BACKGROUND HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS!

PERHAPS THIS MAD LITTLE PLANET IS SOMEHOW SIMILAR TO HIS HOME PLANET... IT MAY HAVE SECRETS HE KNOWS ABOUT! I'LL GO ALONG WITH HIM FOR A WHILE!

BUT THE CONFUSED CAPTAIN CAN NOT KNOW THE TERROR THAT IS SEEPING THROUGH MR. SPOCK'S BODY AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
THAT IS CORRECT, MR. SPOCK! THE SLING MUST BE PERFECTLY PLACED IN THE VOLCANO CRATER...
MMMMMMMM
MMMMM


FOR IT IS THE ALIEN LIGHT FORMS THEMSELVES WHO ARE COMMANDING SPOCK'S MIND...
...UNLESS YOUR ATOMIC ROCKET PENETRATES THE MOLTEN CORE OF OUR PLANET PERFECTLY, THE RESULTS WILL BE NIL!
HOW? WHEN DID THIS ALL HAPPEN TO YOUR PLANET?


THE THOUGHT WAVES OF THE SIX LIGHT FORMS FILL SPOCK'S BRAIN... REVEALING THEIR SECRETS TO HIM...
IT OCCURRED MANY SUN CENTURIES AGO! A GIANT METEORITE PIERCED OUR PLANET IN ITS ONE WEAK AREA...WHERE THE STRUCTURE WAS THIN...
IT WENT THROUGH OUR CRUST, MANTLE, OUTER CORE AND INTO THE MOLTEN MASS OF OUR INNER CORE!
THE MOLECULES OF THE CORE'S MASS WERE CHANGED BY THE CHEMICALS OF THE METEORITE!

"AS THE CHEMICAL REACTION REACHED THE SURFACE THESE TERRIBLE CHANGES BEGAN TO OCCUR...AND OUR BODIES BEGAN TO VAPORIZE..."
OUR PLANET IS DOOMED ...TREES SPROUTING UP AMID OUR WATERS WITHIN MINUTES... MOUNTAINS RISING AND FALLING!
AND NOW WE OURSELVES ARE VAPORIZING FROM THE POWER OF THAT ACCURSED METEORITE!

WE NEEDED PHYSICAL FORM TO UNDO THE DAMAGE DONE... AND YOUR VULCAN BODY WAS THE ONLY ONE WE COULD ENTER DUE TO ITS CHEMICAL MAKE-UP!
I UNDERSTAND..!

THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESSES OF YOUR PLANET WERE SPEEDED UP TRILLIONS OF TIMES OVER! BUT, SHOULD WE CORRECT THE PROBLEM, WILL YOU REVERT TO YOUR NORMAL SELVES?
YES!

SPOCK--TALKING TO HIMSELF! WHAT IN THUNDER! WONDER IF HE'S GOT SPACE FATIGUE!
SPOCK!

BUT AS CAPTAIN KIRK SPEAKS, SPOCK HOLDS UP HIS HAND...
SILENCE... PLEASE, CAPTAIN!
THE CHEMICALS YOU NEED FOR THE ROCKET WE MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER BEFORE WE TOTALLY VANISHED INTO LIGHT FORMS! THEY ARE HIDDEN AT THIS LOCATION...

WHAT THE DEVIL IS GOING ON, SPOCK? THIS AIR OF MYSTERY YOU'RE PUTTING ON IS GETTING ON MY NERVES! EVERYTHING IS READY AT THE CRATER!
IT IS ALL RIGHT! I... WAS JUST MAKING A CALCULATION! LET US GO TO THE PENETRATION SITE!

MY ENGINEERING PLANS ARE COMPLETE! I HAVE BUT ONE MORE DETAIL TO COVER!

AND WHEN THE VOLCANIC CRATER IS REACHED...
JOIN THE MEN, PLEASE! I WILL BE WITH YOU IN MOMENTS!
TO YOUR LEFT SLIGHTLY, MR. SPOCK!
THERE IS THE CHEMICAL CONTAINER! IT WILL NEUTRALIZE THE METEORITE MATTER THAT CONTAMINATED OUR MOLTEN INNER CORE! PLACE IT IN YOUR ATOMIC ROCKET!
SPOCK RETURNS TO THE ROCKET SITE... THE CHEMICALS ARE PLACED IN THE ROCKET'S HEAD...
THOSE CHEMICALS! WHERE DID YOU GET THEM, SPOCK?
I HAD THEM IN AN EMERGENCY KIT! COME! PREPARE TO HOIST THE ROCKET OUT INTO THE EXACT CENTRE OF THE VOLCANIC CRATER BEFORE BLASTING IT DOWNWARD!
BUT SUDDENLY AS THE ROCKET IS PLAYED OUT ON THE PULLEY...
GR-GREAT FIRES OF SATURN! I-IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...THE PLANETARY METAMORPHOSIS IS HITTING US HERE!
CONTINUED ON PAGE 82

More Fact than Fiction

COMETS

Comets first appear as a tiny point of light, even though they may be thousands of miles in diameter, growing larger and larger as they journey nearer to the earth.

Usually they may be divided into three parts, each having a head or nucleus, a "coma", which is a cloud of glowing matter surrounding the nucleus, and a tail, which may be anything from 5,000,000 to 100,000,000 miles long. A few comets, however, do not have a tail at all.

Scientists believe that the nucleus of the comet is made up of a mass of solid matter and gases. It is this part which leads the approach to the sun, leaving behind it a trail of fine particles of gas and matter, which is the tail.

The body travels faster as it nears the sun and the tail grows. But then a curious thing happens. When it is time for the comet to leave the sun, the particles which make up the tail are driven off by the sun and the comet leaves, tail first.

Comets seem to make countless trips around the sun, but they vary in the length between their appearances. Halley's comet, a very famous one, appears only once every seventy-five years.

FALLING STARS

The things which we know as falling stars are not really stars at all but meteors. Unlike comets they are small, solid bodies travelling through space in the majority of cases to eventually enter the earth's atmosphere.

Such meteors may vary in size from a pinhead to a body weighing several tons. In the main, however, the majority of the bodies are destroyed entirely by heat before reaching the earth's surface.

Falling stars may travel singly or, as is more usual, in swarms of thousands. As they enter the earth's atmosphere the friction caused by rubbing against the particles of air induces the fiery train of light which is part of the phenomena.

It is believed by many scientists that thousands of meteors reach our earth every day, but as most of the earth's surface is covered by water, very few are actually ever seen.

CONSTELLATIONS

Groups of stars in a certain area in the sky are known as constellations, and most of the names by which they are known today are the ones which were used thousands of years ago in Ancient Rome and Greece.

In the year A.D. 150, the famous astronomer Ptolemy listed forty-eight constellations that were known to him. In later times various additional constellations were noted, and today astronomers recognise a total of eighty-eight constellations.

Just as Great Britain is divided into counties, so the sky is divided into areas, or as they are known, constellations. The boundaries of these areas used to be very irregular, many of them having curved lines, but in 1928 astronomers decided that a little uniformity was needed in these divisions, so that the outline of any constellation now only contains straight lines.

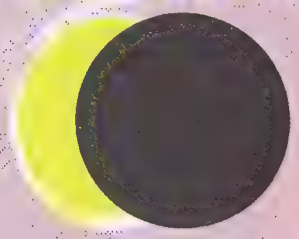
ECLIPSES

Both eclipses of the sun and the moon take place, although there are less of the latter; some years there aren't any at all. Solar eclipses, however, take place far more often, at least twice a year and sometimes as many as five times.

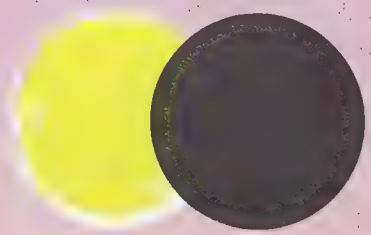
Eclipses of the sun take place only when there is a full moon, as the moon must pass between the earth and the sun to block out the light completely. There are, however, three kinds of eclipses, total, annular, and partial. When the sun is completely covered, then the eclipse is said to be total, but when the moon is too near the earth to cover the sun, the eclipse is annular, the moon appearing as a dark circle surrounded by a light outer ring. Partial eclipses occur when only part of the disk of the moon comes between the sun and the earth.

At any one place on the earth's surface, it is possible to see a total solar eclipse only once every three hundred and sixty years.

A total eclipse



A partial eclipse



An annular eclipse

WHY THE SUN ALWAYS SHINES

The sun is a star, in fact it is the nearest star to the earth, only 93,000,000 miles away.

It is not a solid body; it is much too hot for that. The surface temperature is 11,000 °F., which is hot enough to turn any metal or rock into gas, so therefore the sun is really a globe of gases.

Working by the same process as that which takes place inside an atom bomb, the sun changes matter into energy. It only takes one per cent of the sun's matter to provide sufficient energy to keep the star hot for 150 thousand million years.

That's why the sun always shines!

THE DIFFERENT CLOUDS

Clouds are formed by warm air which, laden with moisture, rises. When it gets to a certain height the air cools and as it is incapable of holding the moisture as such, it changes into drops of water or ice. These are clouds.

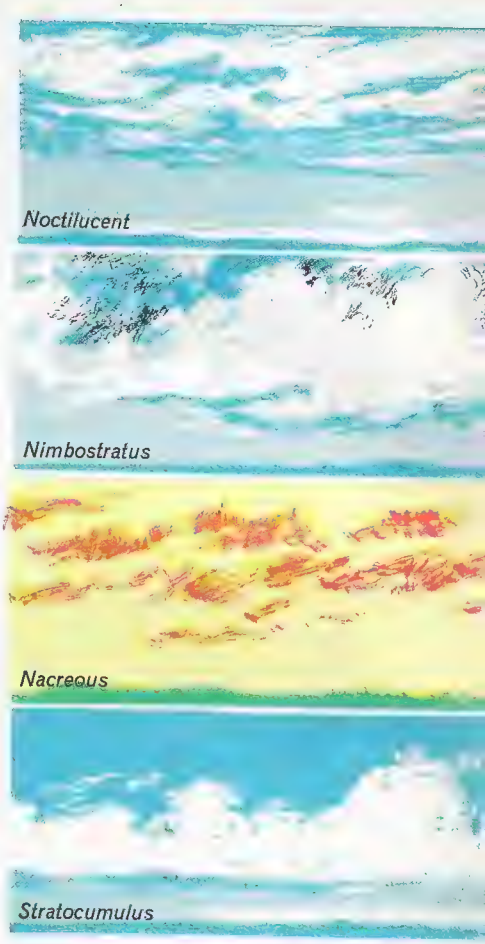
We have different clouds because formation takes place at different heights and temperatures, as well as the fact that at these different circumstances the clouds will be composed of different particles.

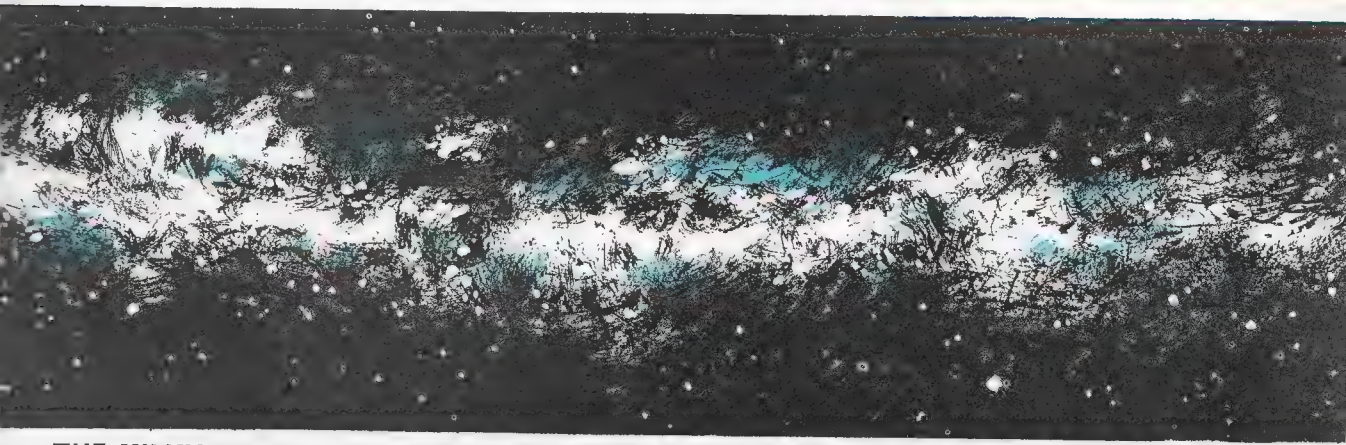
Very low clouds are known as stratus clouds and are in fact sheets of high fog, about 2,000 feet off the ground. About a mile up you will find clouds called the strato-cumulus, which are large and lumpy, and also at this height are the rain clouds, known as the nimbo-stratus.

The higher up you travel, of course, the thinner the clouds become, because there is less air at these greater heights.

The highest clouds of all are called noctilucent and may be anything from thirty to fifty miles up.

Certain clouds may only be seen at certain times of the day, as in the case of the nacreous clouds. These may only be seen in the evening, at night or before sunrise. They are composed of drops of water or dust and are very fine and beautifully coloured. Nacreous clouds usually appear at a height of twelve to eighteen miles.





THE MILKY WAY

In early Christian times people thought that the Milky Way was a pathway to heaven for the angels, or that it was an opening to heaven so that people on earth could see how beautiful heaven would be. Although we may ridicule those beliefs now, it is still possible to see why people were, and still are, so impressed by this glorious sight.

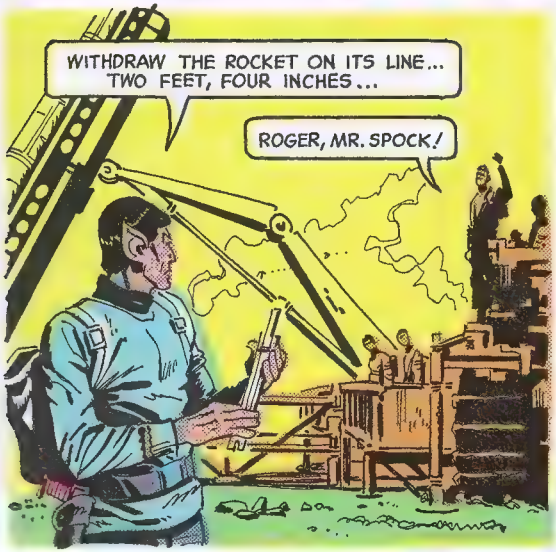
Our galaxy has been likened to a watch, round and flat. We, on earth, see the galaxy as if from the inside of a watch, so that we see the edge curving around us.

There are at least 3,000,000,000 stars in the galaxy. It may give you some idea of the actual size of this body of stars when you realise that for the sun's light to reach the earth it takes eight minutes, but for the light to reach the sun from the centre of the galaxy it takes 27,000 years!

STAR TREK
THE PERIL OF PLANET QUICK CHANGE
PART II – THE SINISTER GUEST
PREPARING TO BLAST A CHEMICALLY-FILLED ATOMIC ROCKET INTO THE MOLTEN CORE OF THE EVER CHANGING PLANET METAMORPHA, THE LAUNCHING POINT ON A VOLCANIC CRATER SUDDENLY, CONVULSES, STAGGERING THE ENTERPRISE CREW...
W-WE'VE HAD IT, SPOCK! WHATEVER YOUR THEORY WAS OF STILLING THIS NIGHTMARISH PLANET IS GONE WITH THE ALIEN WIND...
...I-IF WE GET OUT OF THIS WITH OUR NECKS I'M ORDERING AN IMMEDIATE TELEPORTATION BACK TO SHIP!
PLEASE... BE CALM, CAPTAIN KIRK!
THEN... A TELEPATHIC VOICE RESOUNDS IN SPOCK'S BRAIN...
STAND UP AND TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO FOLLOW YOU! HURRY, MR. SPOCK!
VERY WELL!
CAPTAIN...MEN! FOLLOW ME! QUICKLY!

AND AS SPOCK LEADS THE CREW AROUND A TURN IN THE CRATER WALL...
WE WILL BE SAFE IN HERE, GENTLEMEN!
WHAT KIND OF A GALAXY GAMBIT HAS SPOCK *GOT?* HE SEEMS TO KNOW THIS PLANET LIKE THE BACK OF HIS VULCAN HAND!

QUICKLY, THE INSCRUTABLE VULCAN MAKES A CALCULATION...
THE DISTURBANCE HAS MOVED THE OPENING OF THE VOLCANIC PIT!! WE MUST REALIGN FOR ROCKET ENTRY!

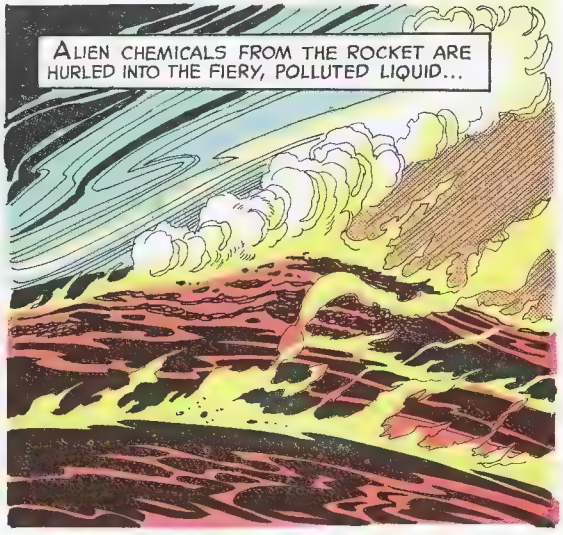

WITHDRAW THE ROCKET ON ITS LINE... TWO FEET, FOUR INCHES...
ROGER, MR. SPOCK!

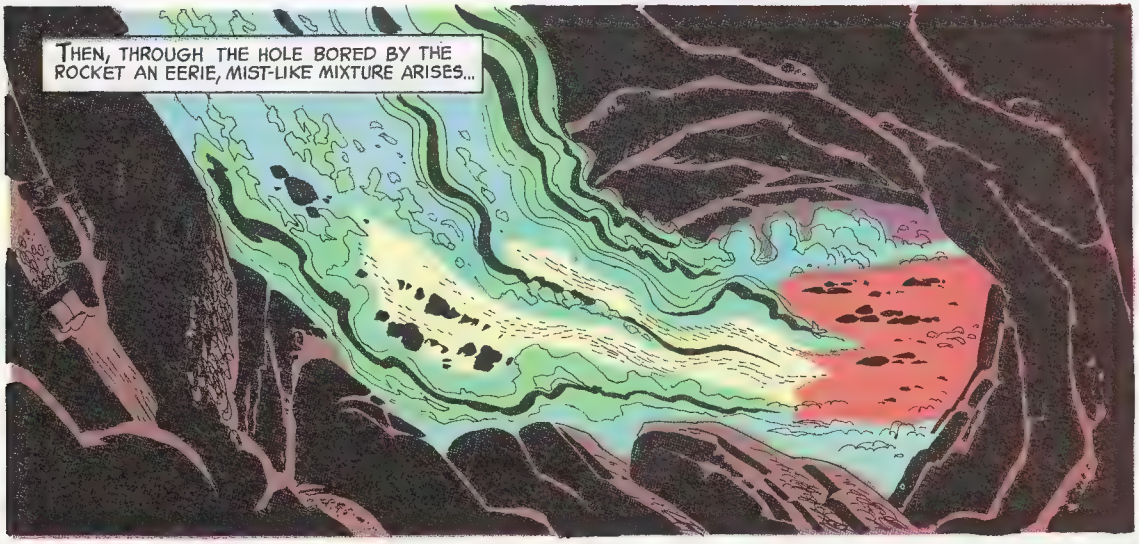
MOMENTS LATER..
THE UPHEAVALS HAVE SUBSIDED! WE CAN CONTINUE *PROJECT PLANET STILL!*
NOW HE'S GOT A CODE NAME FOR THE OPERATION!!

SPOCK MOVES TO THE CONTROL PANEL... HIS FINGER REACHES OUT TO PRESS THE BUTTON THAT MEANS LIFE OR DEATH FOR THE PLANET METAMORPHA...

THE ATOMIC ROCKET SLAMS DOWNWARD...THROUGH THE OPENING IN THE VOLCANIC PIT! THEN...DEEP INTO THE PLANET'S HEART THE DIAMOND-TIPPED NOSE OF THE MISSILE DRILLS ITS WAY...
BRRRRR!

DOWN...DOWN IT PLUMMETS INTO THE CONTAMINATED MOLTEN MASS OF THE INNER CORE...
KA-FUUUM!


ALIEN CHEMICALS FROM THE ROCKET ARE HURLED INTO THE FIERY, POLLUTED LIQUID...


THEN, THROUGH THE HOLE BORED BY THE ROCKET AN EERIE, MIST-LIKE MIXTURE ARISES...

UP ABOVE, THE CHEMICAL SPRAY GEYSERS GUSHES OUT...
GREAT RINGS OF SATURN! W-WE'VE HIT SOMETHING DOWN THERE!
WE HAVE SUCCEEDED, CAPTAIN KIRK--WE HAVE PUNCTURED THE DEADLY HEART OF PLANET METAMORPHA!
LIKE SOME GIGANTIC CLOUD, THE CHEMICAL-FILLED MIST REGENERATES ITSELF AGAIN AND AGAIN... IT MUSHROOMS...
THE WONDER HAS COME TO BE, MR. SPOCK! WITHIN ONE SOLAR DAY OUR MEDICAL MIST WILL HAVE RETURNED OUR WORLD TO NORMAL! WE THANK YOU!
SUDDENLY, THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE GAPE AT MR. SPOCK WIDE-EYED...
GR-GREAT GLORY TO BE! TH-THE LIGHT FORMS ...THEY'RE SWIRLING OUT OF MR. SPOCK'S HEAD!
AND THEY'RE MATERIALIZING INTO SOME KIND OF ALIEN CREATURES!
SPOCK! WHAT'S HAPPENED..? WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
AWESTRUCK, THE SPACE PIONEERS WATCH AS SECOND BY SECOND, THE INCREDIBLE OCCURS...
YOUR BRILLIANT VULCAN COLLEAGUE WAS OUR HOST, CAPTAIN KIRK! THROUGH HIS BODY WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE OUR WORLD!
AND NOW WE SHALL MAKE REPAYMENT BY GIVING YOU THE VITAL ORE YOU SEEK! MY NAME IS ZARMAN!

THEN AS THE ALIEN SPEAKS, A FANTASTIC SIGHT CAPTURES THE GROUP...
ZARMAN! LOOK THERE, BEHIND YOU!
AH, YES...
...IT IS OUR TOWN OF HIDENNA! AS WE WERE VAPORIZED BY THE POISONED METEORITE, SO IT WAS, TOO! AND NOW AS OUR CHEMICAL ANTIDOTE MIST HAS MATERIALIZED US, HIDENNA ALSO IS RETURNING!
EVEN THE FAMED SPACE PIONEERS ARE DAZED WITH WONDER AT THE REBIRTH OF A TOWN FROM NOTHINGNESS...
THIS WAS MY HOME... AND THE HOME OF MY FRIENDS! ALL OVER OUR PLANET, ONE BY ONE, OTHER TOWNS ARE ALSO RISING!
FANTASTIC, ZARMAN! BUT MR. SPOCK SAID WE HAD AN AGREEMENT IF WE SUCCEEDED IN HELPING YOU!
YES! THE TIANTIANIUM ORE MR. SPOCK'S MIND REVEALED TO US WAS SO VITAL TO YOUR GALAXY! I WILL SHOW YOU THE NEAREST DEPOSIT! COME!

BUT AS ZARMAN LEADS THEM TO A NEARBY AREA...
DIG THERE! BUT PLEASE...EXTRACT BUT TWO HUNDRED GALAXY POUNDS OF THE ORE! WE NEED MUCH OF IT HERE ON METAMORPHA TO KEEP OUR PLANET VITALIZED!
YES...YES! THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT!
MR. SPOCK! GIVE US A HAND!
NO... I-I CAN NOT, CAPTAIN... I... AM TOO WEAKENED FROM MY ORDEAL!
CERTAINLY! I UNDERSTAND! REST YOURSELF, SPOCK!
MY HEAD... SOMETHING IS NOT CORRECT... MY MIND IS STILL NOT ...CLEAR... CONCISE IN THOUGHT!
SUDDENLY, A FRIGHTENING THOUGHT ENLIGHTENS SPOCK'S CLOUDY EYES...
WAIT! SIX LIGHT FORMS ENTERED MY BODY...YES...YES, SIX ENTERED... BUT ONLY FIVE LEFT!
THAT IS TRUE, MR. SPOCK!
I AM STILL WITHIN YOUR BODY...
...YOUR MIND...
...YES, WITHIN YOUR VERY SOUL, MR. SPOCK!
BUT WHY...WHY? WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU BETRAY US SO?

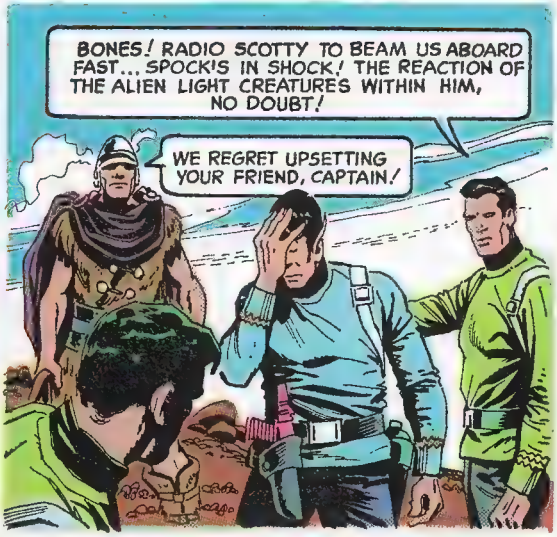
I DO NOT BETRAY YOU, SIR! I MERELY SEEK ESCAPE, ADVENTURE... KNOWLEDGE OF THE OTHER WORLDS, THE MANY GALAXIES YOU HAVE KNOWN AND TRAVELLED THROUGH! MY NAME... IT IS TEXTRA!
NO...NO!
THROUGH YOUR EYES, YOUR BODY, I WILL ROAM THE DEEP REACHES OF SPACE WITH YOU... SEE WONDERS MY FOOL PEOPLES HAVE NEVER DARED DREAM OF!
IT...SHALL NOT BE, TEXTRA!
NOTHING! NO ONE SHALL POSSESS ME! I...I SHALL DRIVE YOU FROM MY BEING LIKE SOME LOATHSOME PLAGUE!
IT IS HOPELESS, MR. SPOCK! WE ARE INTERTWINED... FOREVER!
CITIZEN LOOK! THE ALIEN IS CRAZED! PERHAPS THE ATMOSPHERE HERE HAS STUNNED HIS MIND!

WHILE AT THE ORE SITE...
THAT DOES IT...TWO HUNDRED GALAXY POUNDS! THANK YOU, ZARMAN!
ALL RIGHT, MEN... LET'S GO!

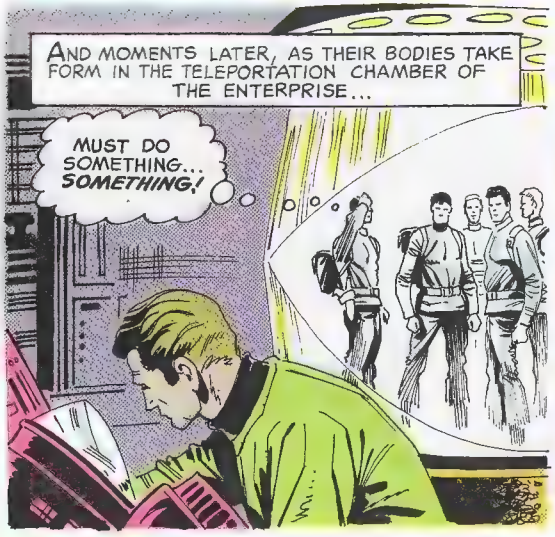
SAY! WHERE IN BLUE THUNDER IS MR. SPOCK?
THERE HE IS, CAPTAIN! HE MUST HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE MATERIALIZED TOWN!

AND AS THEY JOIN THE VULCAN GENIUS, HIS LIPS FRAME WORDS... HIS MIND TRIES TO REVEAL SOMETHING TO CAPTAIN KIRK...
CA-CAPTAIN! THERE IS GREAT DANGER... Y-YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME...!
YES! WHAT IS IT, SPOCK?

BUT THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT FORM WITHIN HIM IS TOO GREAT...
I AM STRONGER THAN YOU, SPOCK! YOU CANNOT REVEAL MY PRESENCE WITHIN YOU! YOU CAN NOT!
CA-CAPTAIN... I...I... A... A POWER...S-SOMETHING WRONG..!

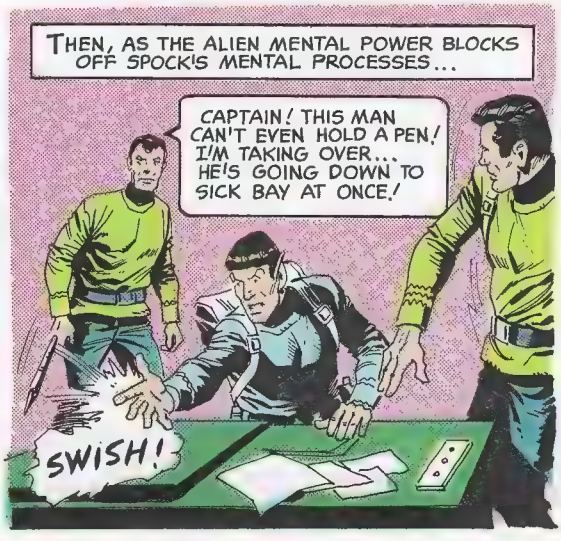

BONES! RADIO SCOTTY TO BEAM US ABOARD FAST... SPOCK IS IN SHOCK! THE REACTION OF THE ALIEN LIGHT CREATURES WITHIN HIM, NO DOUBT!
WE REGRET UPSETTING YOUR FRIEND, CAPTAIN!

AND AS THE CREW BEGINS TO DEMATERIALIZE...
THOSE ARE THE RISKS OF OUR SPACE RESEARCH! A DAY IN THE SHIP'S HOSPITAL WILL FIX HIM UP! GOODBYE, ZARMAN!
YOU SEE... I HAVE WON, MR. SPOCK! WE GO TOGETHER!


AND MOMENTS LATER, AS THEIR BODIES TAKE FORM IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER OF THE ENTERPRISE...
MUST DO SOMETHING... SOMETHING!

AS THEY STEP FROM THE CHAMBER, SPOCK DESPERATELY CLUTCHES KIRK'S SHOULDER... FIGHTING AGAINST THE ALIEN MENTAL FORCE WITHIN HIM...
WHAT IS IT, SPOCK?
COME... WITH ME...!

LIKE A MAN SEIZED WITH AN ELECTRICAL CHARGE, SPOCK'S SHAKING HAND CLUTCHES A PEN...
PERHAPS... I CAN... WRITE... THE WARNING...
YOU CAN NOT, SPOCK! MY WILL IS EQUAL TO YOURS!
POOR DEVIL! HE'S TRYING TO WRITE ME SOMETHING!


THEN, AS THE ALIEN MENTAL POWER BLOCKS OFF SPOCK'S MENTAL PROCESSES...
CAPTAIN! THIS MAN CAN'T EVEN HOLD A PEN! I'M TAKING OVER... HE'S GOING DOWN TO SICK BAY AT ONCE!
SWISH!

LISTEN... INSIDE OF ME... SOMETHING!
QUIET, SPOCK!
STEADY, OLD FRIEND... EASY DOES IT!

THEN...
THIS WILL CALM YOU DOWN, OLD FELLER!
BUT IT WILL NOT HELP TO RID YOURSELF OF ME, MR. SPOCK! NO INDEED!

THEN IN SICK BAY, SPOCK IS LEFT ALONE TO BATTLE HIS POWERFUL VULCAN MIND AGAINST THAT OF THE ALIEN PARASITE WITHIN HIM...
TH-THERE MUST BE A WAY... SOME MEANS TO SPEW YOU FROM ME!
THERE IS NO WAY MR. SPOCK! ACCEPT YOUR FATE... AND ENJOY YOUR TRAVELS THROUGH SPACE WITH ME!

SUDDENLY, SPOCK'S WHIRLING MIND SEIZES UPON A THOUGHT...
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING OF, SPOCK?
YES... YES, IT CAN BE DONE!

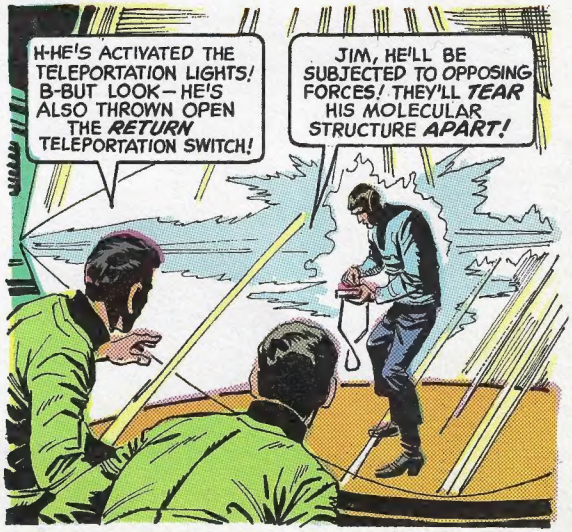
HIS MIND TORN BETWEEN TWO FORCES, HE STAGGERS FROM SICK BAY...
MU-MUSTN'T THINK... CAN'T LET TEXTRA KNOW..!
LET TEXTRA KNOW WHAT, VULCAN?
SAY, NOW, MR. SPOCK...

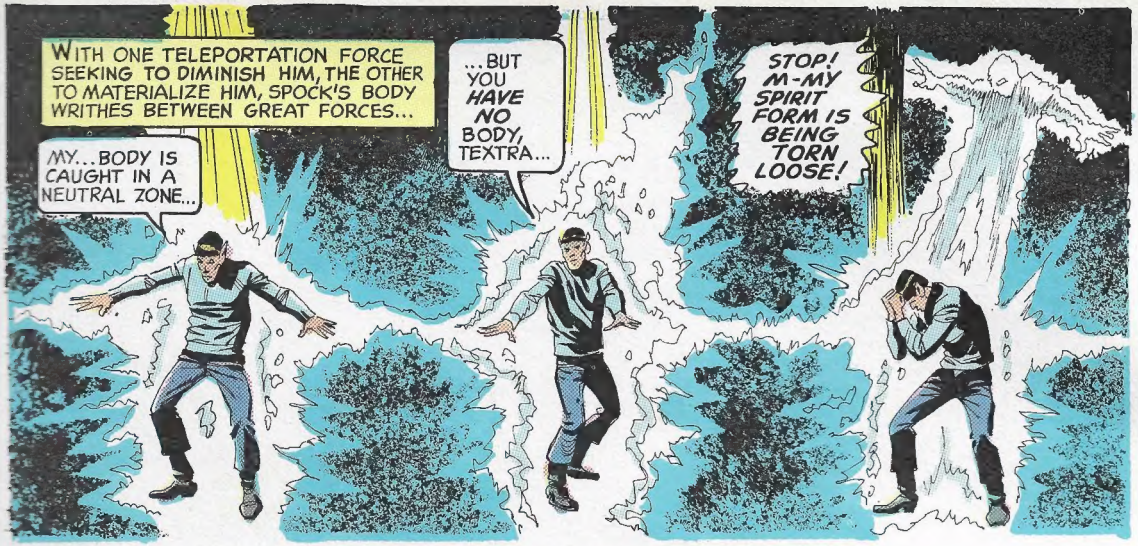
YOU'RE AN ILL MAN, YOU ARE, SIR! BEST YOU LET ME HELP YOU BACK TO SICK BAY!

OOOF!
YOU MUST LET ME GO!

DESPERATELY RESISTING THE FORCE WITHIN HIM, SPOCK STAGGERS LIKE A MAN WITH INVISIVIBLE CHAINS DOWN THE CORRIDOR...
JUST KEEP MYSELF MOVING... MOVING...
SPOCK! YOU ARE HEADING FOR THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER! WHY? THINK! THINK OF WHAT YOU PLAN SO THAT I CAN KNOW!

WITHIN THE CHAMBER, THE VULCAN LOCKS THE DOOR AND...
WHA..? SPOCK HAS GONE INTO THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER!
GREAT SATELLITES! HE MUST BE GOING TO TELEPORT HIMSELF BACK TO METAMORPHA!


H-HE'S ACTIVATED THE TELEPORTATION LIGHTS! B-BUT LOOK—HE'S ALSO THROWN OPEN THE RETURN TELEPORTATION SWITCH!
JIM, HE'LL BE SUBJECTED TO OPPOSING FORCES! THEY'LL TEAR HIS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE APART!

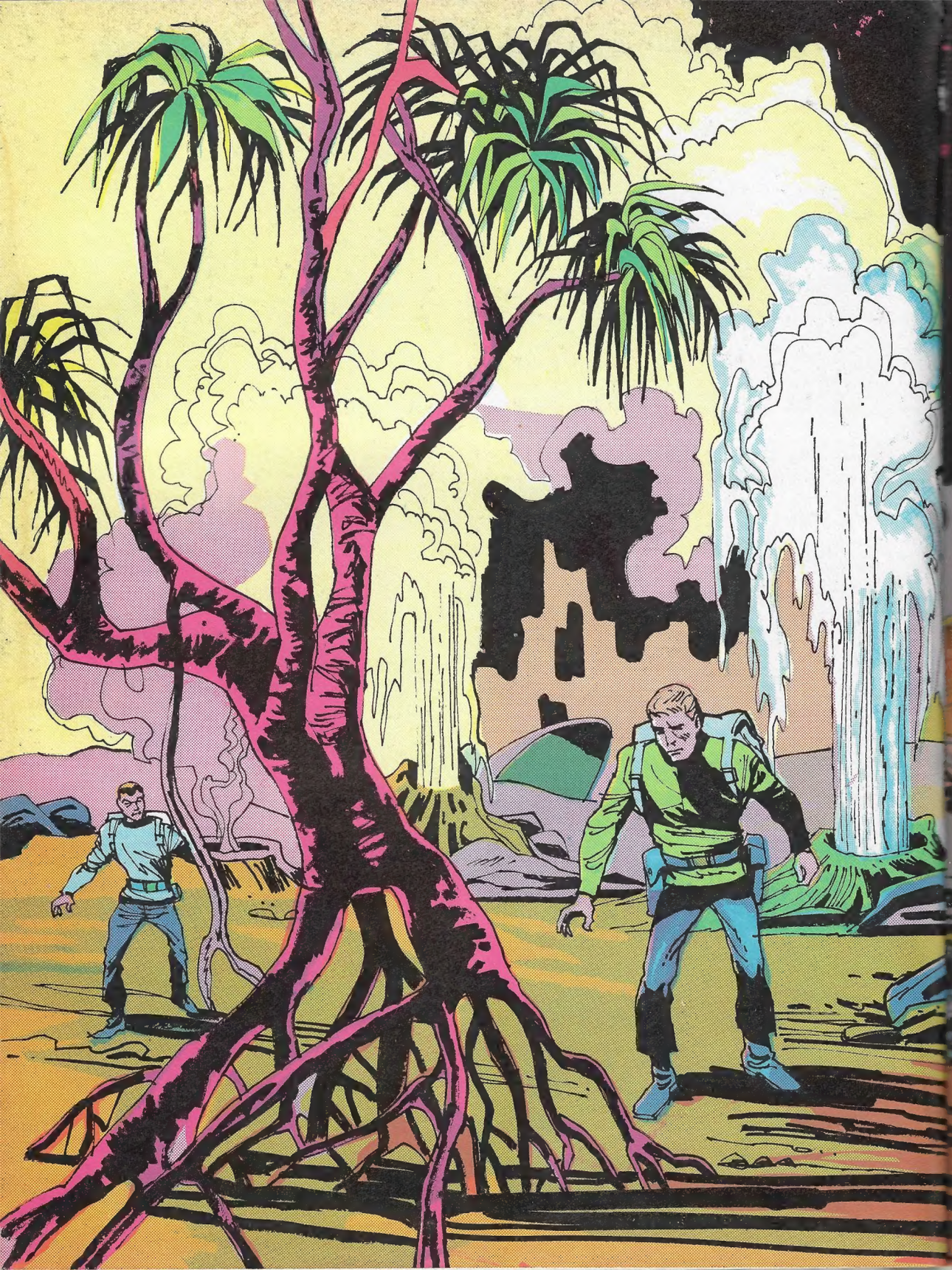

WITH ONE TELEPORTATION FORCE SEEKING TO DIMINISH HIM, THE OTHER TO MATERIALIZE HIM, SPOCK'S BODY WRITHES BETWEEN GREAT FORCES...
MY...BODY IS CAUGHT IN A NEUTRAL ZONE...
...BUT YOU HAVE NO BODY, TEXTRA...
STOP! M-MY SPIRIT FORM IS BEING TORN LOOSE!

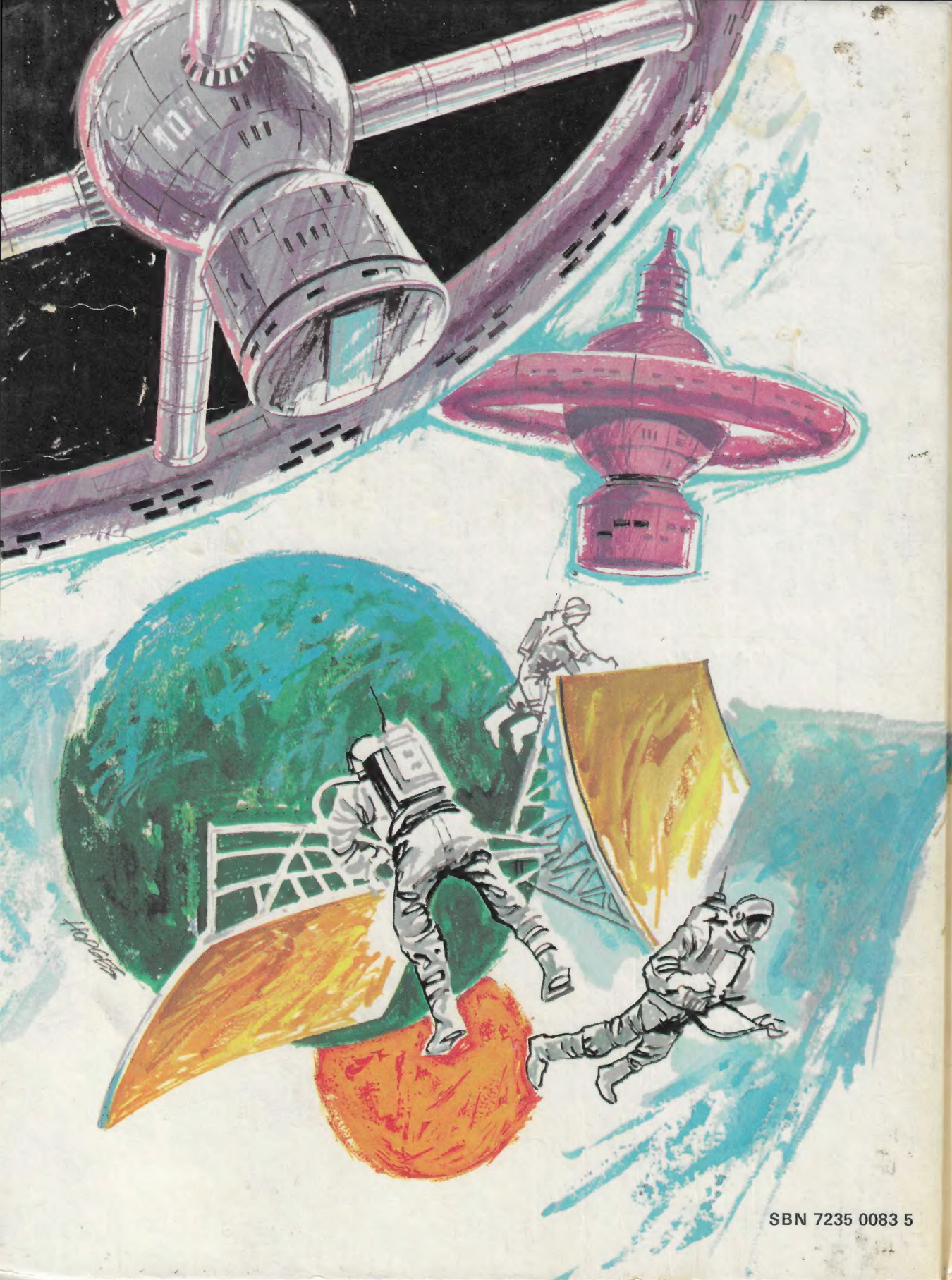
ABRUPTLY, A LIGHT FORM IS RIPPED BY THE FORCES FROM SPOCK'S BODY...
AN-ANOTHER LIGHT FORM ...IT WAS STILL WITHIN HIM! IT'S MATERIALIZING!

SPOCK'S COLLAPSED!
AND THE ALIEN... HE'S VAPORIZING! TURN OFF THE MACHINE, CAPTAIN, QUICKLY!

AND WHEN SPOCK HAS BEEN REVIVED TO TELL HIS STORY...
(WHEW!) SO THAT TEXTRA WAS PLANNING TO USE YOU AS A HOST FOREVER!
YES, CAPTAIN! I'M GLAD I THOUGHT OF NEUTRALIZING THE TELEPORTATION MACHINE! IT MADE MY BODY SO UNSTABLE THERE WAS NOTHING FOR TEXTRA TO HANG ONTO!

I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING UNSTABLE ABOUT YOU VULCANS!
DR. McCOY, IT SEEMS TO ME YOU EARTHMEN CAN ACHIEVE INSTABILITY EVEN WITHOUT A MACHINE!





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